

Soviets say talks stalled on testing

GENEVA (AP) — The chief Soviet delegate to superpower talks on nuclear testing said Tuesday that the talks, which recessed Monday, have stalled because of American refusal to discuss a complete ban on nuclear tests. But the envoy, Andronik Petrosyants, referred to a "growing resistance movement" in the United States against nuclear tests, and said he hoped "reason will prevail and there will be a bilateral moratorium. There are sober-minded people in the United States who oppose nuclear testing." The United States conducted its first nuclear test of 1967 on Feb. 3. Previously, the Soviets had said they would end their self-imposed unilateral test moratorium, begun in August 1985, after the first U.S. test. Mr. Petrosyants said the Soviets had not yet broken the moratorium but he declined to say when they might.

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جوردان نيوز آجني فيس فاؤنڊيشن

League urges aid to Palestinians

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Arab League urged Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross organisations on Tuesday to send emergency aid to Palestinian refugees besieged in refugee camps, the Algerian news agency APS reported. The appeal was made by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, chairman of an Arab League committee on the "camps war" set up in December, and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, the agency said. The plight of the Palestinian refugees has shocked the Arab public since they asked Islamic religious leaders for permission to eat human flesh to survive (See story below). Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has sent an urgent message to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev asking him to intervene to save the lives of the Palestinians under siege by militiamen in Lebanon.

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Jordan gets \$15m IDB loan

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$15 million loan to Jordan to help finance imports of crude oil from an IDB member country. The loan agreement was signed Monday by IDB President Ahmad Mohammad Ali and Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Rasool Al Kilani. This brings total IDB assistance to Jordan over the last five months to \$53 million.

Princess Anne begins Mideast tour

ABU DHABI (AP) — Britain's Princess Anne, a keen promoter of child welfare, began a tour of the Gulf region Tuesday with a meeting with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan. She also met his son, Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed. Princess Anne's Gulf tour is to take her to Qatar and Kuwait before visiting Jordan. The princess will focus mainly on meetings with child welfare officials, Gulf-based British diplomats said.

Israel TV blacks out

TEL AVIV (AP) — Technicians shut down Israel's state-run television channel for an indefinite period on Tuesday, after the head of their union was suspended for halting the live transmission of the all stars basketball game from Seattle. Union head Zion Swery was suspended after blacking out the screen seven minutes before the end of the national basketball association's East-West all-star game on Sunday. Israel Television, the country's only TV station, has been subject to repeated walk-outs and labour disputes in recent years.

GCC to set up anti-narcotics fund

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Arab states are to set up a fund to combat the threat of narcotics and promote public awareness of drug hazards, Kuwaiti Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah said Tuesday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted him as saying a proposal to protect the youth of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) against the dangers of narcotics topped the agenda of talks starting Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Cordovez begins Moscow talks

MOSCOW (R) — Diego Cordovez, United Nations negotiator on Afghanistan, began talks with Soviet officials on Tuesday prior to discussions later this month on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He said Mr. Cordovez met First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov, but gave no details of their discussions.

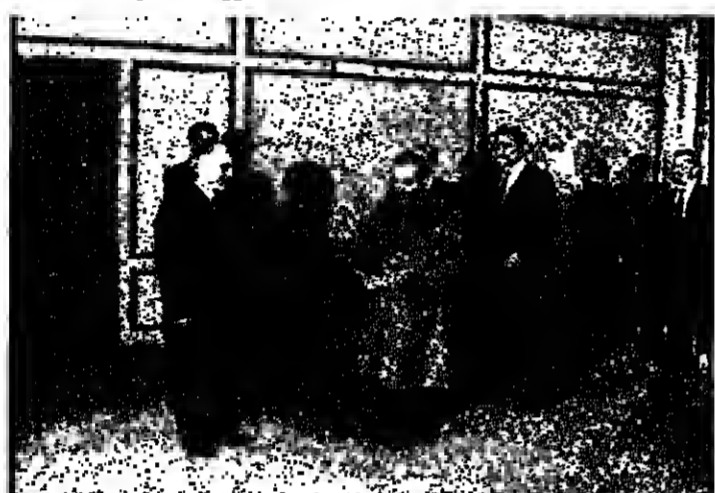
Gorbachev pledges support for S. Yemen

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev pledged unfailing support on Tuesday for Marxist-ruled South Yemen, where a new government was established after bloody clashes between rival party factions in January last year. Mr. Gorbachev spoke at a luncheon for the new leader of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), Ali Salem Al Biedh, who arrived in Moscow on Monday on an official visit.

King visits Damascus, holds talks with Assad

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks on Tuesday believed to centre on the current situation in the Middle East and the latest developments in the region as well as the situation in Lebanon.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the two leaders' meeting, did not give details but other reports suggested that the focus of the Damascus talks was expected to be the six-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war and Lebanese-Syrian reconciliation.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent before His Majesty King Hussein's departure for Damascus on Monday (Petra photo)

Beirut kidnappers prepare swap list after last-minute reprieve for hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Kidnappers have prepared a list of about 400 prisoners held by Israel to exchange for four hostages who received a last-minute reprieve from "execution" Monday night, political sources quoted by Reuters said.

Beirut radio stations said the kidnappers were involved in a "hush-hush deal with Israel" to release the 400 prisoners in return for freeing the hostages and a captured Israeli airman.

Voice of Lebanon and Voice of the Nation quoted "reports from Washington and other capitals" after the kidnappers put off plans to kill their captives at midnight (2200 GMT Monday).

The radios said the hostages would be part of a deal to swap the airman, captured Oct. 16

when his Phantom fighter-bomber was shot down by militiamen, for the Arab prisoners.

The kidnappers, a group called Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, announced at midnight they had postponed their deadline for killing the hostages "until further notice" because of "certain positive points" in statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, asked about the possibility of swapping Arab prisoners for hostages held in Lebanon, said Israel would be willing to consider a direct request for negotiations.

Interviewed on Israel television, Mr. Shamir said Israel had a general policy against negotiating with "terrorists," but said "such

rules about negotiating must be examined on a case-by-case basis."

Mr. Shamir was asked about the reports that the kidnappers had given the International Red Cross a list of 310 Lebanese, most of them Shi'ites, and 90 Palestinians whose freedom it is demanding in exchange for three Americans and an Indian.

"On such serious matters, one does not rely on publications in the media. One must address only requests made to us directly and until now no such request has reached us," Mr. Shamir said.

The underground Islamic Jihad said it had postponed killing the hostages — three Americans and an Indian — until further notice. The political sources quoted by

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, who is at odds with Mr. Assad after he scuttled a December 1985 Damascus-supported peace plan to end the Lebanese civil war, visited Amman last week and, during his talks with the King, was reported to have requested the monarch to mediate his differences with the Syrian leader.

The King is also actively involved in efforts to mediate differences between Syria and Iraq as a prelude towards arriving at a negotiated solution to the Gulf conflict.

The King last met Mr. Assad during the Jan. 26-29 Islamic summit in Kuwait.

During the Kuwait gathering, the two leaders also attended a meeting with the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Kuwait to discuss the possibility of convening a long-delayed Arab summit.

Petra said the Jordanian side to the Damascus meeting on Tuesday included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis.

On the Syrian side the talks were attended by Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm, Deputy

Finance Ministry official blames past mismanagement of funds for present ills

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Majid Qasem has attributed the bulk of Jordan's present economic ills to "mismanagement" of funds obtained in the boom years and excessive borrowing and spending despite shrinking revenues. "Mistaken fiscal policies were undertaken because of the lack of experience (on the part of economic policy makers) and the unexpected economic conditions," Dr. Qasem told an audience of economists and businessmen in a lecture he delivered at the World Affairs Council (WAC).

He said that despite receiving

nearly JD 360 million in Arab aid between 1979 and 1981, the government's foreign borrowing in the same period reached JD 353 million, bringing the accumulated deficit to JD 85 million. "This was a result of mismanagement," he said.

He said the government used the funds and loans to establish the Kingdom's infrastructure and public services, but "substantive funds were lost in failed projects that have become a burden on the treasury."

The Kingdom's foreign debt today stands at over JD 1 billion.

According to Dr. Qasem, the economic policy pursued in the last few years "changed consumer patterns and made us import two-

thirds of what we consume and import four times the amount of our exports."

He described the current five-year development plan as optimistic but warned that "facts should be put in their proper perspective, taking into account unusual conditions and future expectations."

"We have to stop taking the question of borrowing so lightly," Dr. Qasem said. "It has led to disturbing economic situation."

Dr. Qasem insisted, in response to a question, that foreign loans obtained by the government should be treated as revenues as long as the government is capable of servicing these loans from interally-generated funds.

Palestinians stage W.Bank strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian students boycotted classes on Tuesday at a university in the occupied West Bank to protest against the wounding of 10 Arabs by Israeli troops in anti-Israeli unrest on Monday.

The Israeli army said its troops had surrounded the Islamic College campus in Hebron and feared that the student strike would erupt in fresh violence.

Several students set up a roadblock of stones outside the school and boistered the banned Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) flag before dispersing, the army said.

On Monday, the Israeli

occupation authorities shut down another Palestinian university for a month after seven students were wounded in clashes with Israeli troops. A soldier was also hurt.

Monday's clashes at Al Najah University near Nablus followed the shooting and wounding of three Palestinian boys at the nearby Balata refugee camp.

The 3,000-student Al Najah University had reopened only on Jan. 21 after a 17-day closure ordered by the Israelis on the grounds the students were planning protests.

On Monday students burned tires, stoned Israeli vehicles and demonstrated in the main streets

of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city with a population of 100,000, said the Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the Israeli-occupied territories.

It said students also held demonstrations in the town of Khan Yunis and at the Breij refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Two of the Palestinian boys shot by Israeli soldiers at Balata remained in critical condition Tuesday at a hospital in Nablus, the press service said.

It identified them as Raed Mohammad Hussein Rawash, who suffered bullet wounds to the head and back, and Yehiya Hussein Abu Sair, who was hit in the head and abdomen.

Hunger grips Beirut camps with no end in sight to siege

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters and Shi'ite Amal militiamen battled around Beirut's besieged refugee camps on Tuesday and Palestinian sources said their fighters might punch out of the hunger-ridden shantytowns to seize food supplies.

Police reported three people were killed and 13 wounded in the clashes with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades between the Palestinian defenders of the camps and Amal militiamen ringing Sabtila and Bourj Al Barajneh.

The casualties raised the known toll in the latest spasm of fighting between the Palestinians and Amal to 552 killed and 1,455 wounded since Nov. 24.

Amal militiamen pounded the two camps with mortars during the night.

Fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hit back with salvos of rocket-propelled grenades into the densely populated Shi'ite slums around the camps.

"The fighting flared after a car 1 exploded in the Shi'ite district of Rowass on Monday.

Police said 15 people were killed and 80 wounded.

Amal, led by Justice Minister Nabih Berri, blamed the PLO for the bombing.

PLO spokesmen said "a real hunger crisis" was gripping the 35,000 Palestinians trapped inside Bourj Al Barajneh because of the three-month-old Amal siege.

"Our people in Bourj Al Barajneh have already eaten all the cats and dogs they had. Nothing is left to eat and Amal is still refusing to allow supplies into the camp," said a PLO spokesman who declined to be identified.

PLO sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP the Palestinians might punch out from Bourj Al Barajneh to capture food supplies.

Sabtila and Bourj Al Barajneh have been blockaded by the Syrian-backed Amal since Nov. 24.

A senior Sunni clergyman in Bourj Al Barajneh, Sheikh Khalil Sharfiah, has appealed to "all Muslim scholars" for a fatwa, or religious ruling, allowing the besieged Palestinians to eat human flesh to survive Amal's blockade.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Lebanon's most in-

fluent Shi'ite cleric, said in response to the appeal that claims of famine in the camp were exaggerated.

"The situation in the camp has not reached that dimension," he told AP in a telephone interview. "But legally a fatwa to allow people to eat human flesh is only tolerated when all kinds of other food cease to exist. It is in this case only that eating the flesh of the dead people becomes permissible," Sheikh Fadlallah added.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) appealed to Amal on Tuesday to lift the blockade of the camps. In a press release received in Amman, the agency said it had food and medical supplies ready for delivery to the besieged camps.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli expressed concern for the health and safety of thousands of women, children and other non-combatants suffering acute hardship in the camps. While asking for restraint by all parties to avoid suffering among all civilians, he

(Continued on page 3)

Israel preparing testimony for U.S.

White House defends Reagan over 'moderates' and 'radicals' in Iran

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet secretary is collecting documents and testimony from Israelis involved in U.S. arms sales to Iran to help Washington's investigations into the deal, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Eliakim Rubinstein, a lawyer who will accompany Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on an official visit to Washington next week, began gathering material following a U.S. request for information, a Shamir spokesman said.

Several congressional committees are investigating the arms deal alleged to have been aimed at freeing American hostages in Beirut and encouraging pro-West "moderates" in the Tehran government.

The spokesman said Israel would only answer written questions submitted by the United States to the Israeli government. Former foreign ministry director David Kimche, prime ministerial adviser Amiram Nir and Israeli arms dealers Al Schwimmer and Yaacov Nimrodi have been named in connection with the controversial arms sales.

U.S. documents presented to a Senate intelligence subcommittee have indicated the arms sales were initiated by Israel, but Israeli leaders insist they only took part in the deal to help their closest ally.

In Washington, the White House has been thrown onto the defensive by disclosure of a memorandum saying that deal-

McFarlane recovering after 'suicide attempt'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane, who figured prominently in President Ronald Reagan's clandestine sale of weapons to Iran, has been hospitalised for a valium overdose that police treated as an apparent suicide attempt.

Mr. McFarlane ingested between 25 and 30 pills, said detective Lauren Acquaviva of the Montgomery county sheriff's office. He said he did not know how many milligrammes were in each pill.

Acquaviva said a police investigation was routine procedure after a report of "an unattended death or death attempt."

Mr. McFarlane, 49, was admitted to Bethesda Naval Medical Centre about 8 a.m. (1300 GMT) on Monday. Hospital spokesman Rus Sanford said Mr. McFarlane was in good condition.

He had been scheduled to testify Monday morning before the Tower Commission, appointed by Mr. Reagan to investigate the Iran-contra scandal, according to news reports.

CBS television network, quoting unnamed, informed sources, reported that hospital officials believed the overdose resulted from a suicide attempt. CBS, citing unnamed friends of Mr. McFarlane, also reported that he had been depressed and emotional recently.

But Mr. McFarlane's lawyer, Leonard Garment, said "neither I nor the sources of the report can know what bud McFarlane's intentions were."

Mr. Garment said he had not talked with Mr. McFarlane since

last Friday. But, he said, experts on the drug believed it was virtually impossible to commit suicide with valium.

An Atlanta cable television station, WTBS, quoted police sources as saying Mr. McFarlane attempted suicide. The sources said that when police reached his home his wife was holding what was believed to be a suicide note.

CBS news also quoted what it called a well-informed source as saying hospital officials believed Mr. McFarlane attempted to commit suicide.

Peter Morgan, one of Mr. McFarlane's lawyers, said the former White House official had taken an overdose of the drug, a tranquilliser that is frequently prescribed to relieve anxiety disorders and tension resulting from stress.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater noted that Mr. McFarlane was a private citizen and said, "We don't have any information on his condition."

Police said an ambulance was met on arrival at the McFarlane home by Mr. McFarlane's wife, Jonda, and an unidentified neighbour. Mr. McFarlane was conscious and able to talk a bit but did not indicate why he had taken the pills.

"He made no statement as to the reason why, although there's every indication it was an overdose," Acquaviva said. "He did not talk — outside of indicating he had taken the valium. ... Mrs. McFarlane appeared to be upset but also apparently perplexed about the situation."

(Continued on page 3)

18 killed in Philippines clashes

MANILA (AP) — Troops clashed with some 40 communist rebels Tuesday in the first reported fighting since the end of the ceasefire. A military report said 18 people were killed, 12 of them civilians caught in the crossfire.

The report said another three civilians were wounded in the two-hour gun battle, which erupted on the outskirts of Lapao, 145 kilometres north of Manila in Nueva Ecija province.

The fighting broke out as President Corason Aquino met disgruntled military officers in a clear-the-air session marked by her giving the officers a telephone number on which to call her if they were dissatisfied.

Mrs. Aquino moved to gain full military support for her year-old government by meeting disgruntled officers who "unburdened" themselves to her complaining that civilian leaders were alienating the military from the government.

A presidential spokesman said the group of 20 colonels and majors, representing all three services, pledged their loyalty to Mrs. Aquino and vowed to help her stop a communist takeover of the country.

Jassem: Iran failed in its 'final offensive'

BAGHDAD (AP) — Information Minister Latif Jassem said Tuesday that Iran had failed in its long-promised "final offensive" despite capturing unimportant areas east of Basra in a month-long push.

In an interview with AP Mr. Jassem said the Jan. 9 assault towards the southern Iraqi port of Basra "is the same offensive the Iranians have been promising for more than a year."

U.S. officials have said that as many as 200,000 Iranians took part in the offensive. The Iraqis, mainly Revolutionary Guards, captured a small chunk of Iraqi territory before the push was halted.

Mr. Jassem said Iranian troops "are now in areas and places which are not important in strategic or military terms and there is no danger to Basra from the positions where the Iraqis are now."

Foreign military analysts in Baghdad and Washington have said the Iranian offensive appears to have been stopped about 10 to 12 kilometres before a natural defence line formed by the canal-like Fish Lake and the Jassim River.

They said the Iraqis have mas-

sed troops and artillery between the line and Basra.

Iranian leaders have denied that the battles near Basra were the "fateful" final offensive they promised would take place by March 21, the start of the Persian new year.

Mr. Jassem, a member of the 21-man command of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party, rejected Iranian claims that the offensive, codenamed Karbala-5, was not aimed at capturing Basra.

"They sent waves which have been crushed, one after another," he said of the Iranian attacks.

Mr. Jassem said the volunteer "Mohammad Corps" had been wiped out in the attacks. He noted that Iraqis have recently called for 100,000 more volunteers for a "Mabdi force," named for a saviour awaited by Shi'ite Muslims.

He said Iranian officials Monday again appealed for volunteers and offered students who joined the force deferment from regular military service, an offer he said showed the Iraqis' lack of motivation.

"That means also the Iranian corps is not capable of any large action," he said.

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Sudan steps up mediation efforts to end Chad conflict

KHARTOUM (R) — A senior Sudanese official left for Chad Tuesday to resume efforts to mediate an end to fighting in the former French colony.

Ali Hassan Tajeddin, a member of Sudan's five-member Sovereignty Council, made no statement before departure.

He told Reuters Monday he was optimistic after recent talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, but declined to give details of his mediation effort.

Libyan troops stationed in northern Chad are fighting forces of President Hissene Habre's government, backed by 2,400 French troops. Moves by both France and Libya to boost their forces have resulted in increased tension.

Mr. Tajeddin, a French-educated former banker, is in charge of African affairs in the five-man Sudanese council, which collectively serves as head of state. He plans to visit Algeria and Nigeria as part of his reconciliation effort.

He has said Algeria and Nigeria are keen to join Sudan's efforts to end the Chad fighting, and on

Monday briefed envoys of the two countries and Chad separately on his talks in Libya.

Mr. Tajeddin says Sudan maintains that withdrawal of all foreign troops in Chad is essential to a settlement.

A similar proposal made in Paris Monday by the Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, was rejected by French President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand said Libyan forces, estimated by the West at some 15,000 men, would have to leave first.

Diplomats say Sudan's interest in ending turmoil in Chad stems mainly from concern that fighting might spill over into its own territory.

Earlier fighting in Chad, Sudan's Western neighbour, saw Libyan aircraft bombing Sudanese border villages and a

huge influx of Chadian refugees. Libyan planes bombed the Chadian desert towns of Zouar and Wour on Monday after ground forces clashed over the weekend, Chad Radio reported Tuesday.

The broadcast, monitored in Abidjan, said the air attacks began Sunday evening following ground fighting between Chadian government troops and Libyan forces earlier in the day at Oueita, north of Fada in the Ennedi region.

Chadian forces killed 12 Libyans, captured seven others and seized five Libyan vehicles, the government radio said.

Sunday's ground combat was followed by a Libyan air raid on Fada that continued throughout the night, the broadcast said. The report said additional air raids were carried out Monday on the towns of Wour and Zouar in the north western Tibesti region.

The official communiqué said 23 additional Libyan bodies were found near Zouar, the result of fighting there on Feb. 6.

There has been no independent confirmation of the Chadian

claim.

Speaking at a state banquet for the OAU head, who is also the president of Congo, Mr. Mitterrand said there was no comparison between France's defence force in Chad and what he called Libya's "occupying army" in the central African nation.

"Once the occupiers leave, French troops will return to their own country in no time at all, Mr. Mitterrand said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. government is consulting closely with French and Chadian officials about Libyan military activities in Chad.

Redman said he had nothing new to announce about any U.S. response to a Libyan buildup in northern Chad.

"We remain in close consultations with the Chadians, with the French and with others who are involved there," Redman told reporters.

He said the United States was nearing completion of providing \$15 million in emergency arms aid begun last year to counter Libyan forces.

Pentagon checking effects of Iran sales on war

WASHINGTON (AP) — American military leaders are trying to determine whether U.S. arms shipped to Iran are playing any significant role in the Iran-Iraq war, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday.

Adm. William J. Crowe also said the controversy over the Iranian arms sales has resulted in increased consultation between the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

There was no such consultation before President Ronald Reagan's decision to sell arms to Iran last year, Adm. Crowe said, and the Joint Chiefs knew nothing of money being diverted from the arms profits to the contra rebels in Nicaragua before the White House disclosed it.

Adm. Crowe, in a rare meeting with reporters in his Pentagon office, also said U.S. naval movements in the Mediterranean sea and the Gulf amounted to nothing more than prudent precautions.

He also said the recent taking of hostages in Lebanon produced a frustrating situation for the American military, and said it was premature to discuss the idea of early deployment for a "Star Wars" system.

The chiefs support loosely interpreting the anti-ballistic missile treaty to allow more meaningful testing of Star Wars technologies, Adm. Crowe added, but recognise that issue must be decided through consultations with Congress and American allies.

Adm. Crowe said the Joint Chiefs had yet to see any indication that U.S.-made Tow anti-aircraft missiles and spare parts for Hawk anti-aircraft missiles were playing a significant role in fighting between Iran and Iraq.

Adm. Crowe said he would characterise the fighting as having settled into an impasse after Iranian attacks last month near Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

The admiral, as he has told Congress, repeated that neither he nor any other members of the Joint Chiefs were consulted by the White House in advance of the arms sales. Had such consultation occurred, the admiral said, the sale of arms would have been evaluated "from a military requirements standpoint."

Adm. Crowe said the chiefs consider it necessary to determine what effect the U.S.-made weapons have had on the fighting.

"We don't have any indications that U.S. arms transfers have been decisive anywhere. My instincts tell me that in an individual engagement, the fact that you have Tows or don't have might be important. But at least at this juncture, I don't have any reason to say that any of these transfers have had a decisive impact."

Ozal: Significant losses would lead royalists to overthrow Khomeini

By Joanne Omsang

WASHINGTON — If Iran loses significant ground in its war with Iraq, supporters of the late Shah will move quickly to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said.

Mr. Ozal, in town for a private visit and a meeting with President Reagan, is considered well-informed on Middle East events and is in frequent contact with most of the main players in the region. He said at a breakfast with Washington Post editors and reporters that neither Iran nor Iraq has the upper hand in their 6-year-old war.

"Iraq still has more firepower, more regular army (troops), but the morale of the Iranians is higher," he said. If Iraq takes some major Iranian cities, "that could be the end of the (Ayatollah's) regime," he said.

Mr. Ozal said he told Mr. Reagan during their 25-minute meeting Thursday that the United States "has to have some kind of relation with Iran because in order to reach some kind of results, you have to have some kind of relation. Turkey in this respect may help."

He suggested at the Post breakfast that the United States "could make similar proposals to both 'Iran and Iraq through Turkey, although he conceded "it is very,

very difficult" to achieve much.

Mr. Ozal said he had moved to improve relations with neighbouring Syria and had met with Syrian President Hafez Assad. "I was amazed and he was amazed, we didn't know each other," he said.

Turkey is building a large dam on the Euphrates River, which flows into Syria. The project has caused concern in Syria that Turkey might use the water as a political weapon, Mr. Ozal indicated. He said he would like to build a pipeline to bring water from Turkey to parched Middle East nations as far south as the Jordan River — The Washington Post.

U.S. warns of moves against Israelis in spy case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four Israelis named as unindicted co-conspirators in the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case have been warned that they are still subject to possible judicial action, according to sources familiar with the case.

The Justice Department sent a letter recently to Israeli Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, saying it was continuing to investigate him and that he still could be indicted, a source said Monday.

Rafael Eitan, Joseph Yagur and Irit Erb also were notified that the department would seek to revoke their immunity from prosecution because they have failed to meet the terms of the agreement under which it was granted, another source said.

The agreement required the three to tell the truth and to cooperate with federal investigators in exchange for immunity.

The sources spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Patrick Korten, Justice Department spokesman, declined comment on any notification to Sella or to the three others who were granted immunity in the case.

Pollard, a former navy counter-intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty last June to conspiring to give U.S. military secrets to Israel.

Yagur, Erb and Sella allegedly were Pollard's contacts in the United States, while Eitan, a former adviser to two Israeli prime ministers, directed the operation from Israel, the indictment said.

The Israelis failed to tell investigators about Sella's role in the espionage operation or about plans to pay Pollard \$300,000 through a Swiss bank account, according to sources cited by the Washington Post on Tuesday. That information became known after Pollard began cooperating, the newspaper said.

SLA holds prisoners sought by kidnappers

By Jonathan C. Randall

TEL AVIV — Most of the 400 Arab prisoners that the Beirut kidnappers want exchanged for the four professors are thought to be held by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Israel's buffer zone just north of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Informed sources said that more than 200 — and perhaps as many as 400 — prisoners are held in the ruined town of Khiam by the SLA militia, a largely Falangist Lebanese militia armed, supplied and paid by Israel.

Almost all those prisoners are believed to be Lebanese Shi'ites

who have been detained by the militia and Israeli troops during periodic sweeps through nearby villages since mid-1985, when the bulk of the Israeli army withdrew from Lebanon.

But the exact number of prisoners and their identities have never been made public because the SLA refuses to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the Khiam prison.

By keeping the prisoners across the border, Israel can disclaim any direct responsibility for them, according to diplomats and analysts — The Washington Post.

London, Riyadh sign air force training deal

RIYADH (R) — British Defence Secretary George Younger said Tuesday he had signed an air force training agreement during talks here with top Saudi Arabian officials.

He ended a three-day visit with a meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz during which they discussed military cooperation.

Britain is selling Saudi Arabia 132 military aircraft, including 72 Tornado combat planes, in a deal worth \$7 billion signed in 1985.

Mr. Younger told reporters after his session with Prince Abdullah: "The meeting was very cordial and we discussed a wide range of issues."

He also had two rounds of talks with Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz which focussed on a Tornado training programme and a Saudi requirement that British firms should invest in the kingdom as part of the deal.

"I am delighted to announce that during my meeting with Prince Sultan, we concluded a further element in the project of training," Mr. Younger said, adding that both sides had worked out the first phase of the three-year project.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia would buy British submarines, Mr. Younger said all bids were being fully evaluated.

Klibi, Saudi officials to discuss Arab summit

RIYADH (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi will hold talks with Saudi officials on the possibility of holding an Arab summit conference, informed sources here have said.

Mr. Klibi arrived in Riyadh Monday to take part in a general

meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council due to open Wednesday.

According to the sources Mr. Klibi will discuss developments on the Arab scene, the Gulf war and the ongoing "camps war" in Lebanon.

Spain reportedly authorised arms shipments to Iran

MADRID (R) — Spain's leading daily El Pais reported Tuesday that the Socialist government authorised state and private arms manufacturers to sell \$280 million worth of bombs and ammunition to Iran through Libya and Syria in spite of an official arms embargo against countries at war.

The newspaper said Spanish manufacturers had won major sales contracts in Tehran and obtained false final destination certificates from Libyan and Syrian authorities, who forwarded the arms shipments in exchange for a large share of the profit.

Government officials in Madrid strongly denied they had authorised arms exports to Iran and said they had no knowledge of fake export certificates.

"Spain forbids arms sales to countries at war. All arms exports to non-embargoed states in the Middle East have been authorised with final destination guarantees from importing countries," government spokesman Julian Castedo told Reuters.

El Pais said Spain's leading private-sector arms exporter, Grupo Auxiliar Metalurgico Sa

(Gaimesa), sent its commercial director regularly to Tehran to negotiate ammunition supplies.

Gaimesa's financial director, Mike Lucie, would neither confirm nor deny the report "We are keeping silent on this matter until we decide how to reply to these allegations," he told Reuters.

El Pais said state arms manufacturers Empresa Nacional Santa Barbara de Industrias Militares Sa were also involved in arms sales to Iran. Nobody was available for comment at the firm.

The newspaper said the lucrative contracts with Tehran ended when Spain decided to impose arms embargoes on Libya last May and Syria in November in line with the European Community.

El Pais said there were still \$18 million worth of outstanding shipments to Iran, now stalled because the Libya and Syrian intermediaries were no longer available.

"The Iranians are poised to reveal the whole deal because Spanish suppliers have not delivered the goods," an arms manufacturer was quoted as saying.

Southern party pulls out from Sudanese coalition

KHARTOUM (AP) — A political party from southern Sudan said Tuesday it is withdrawing its own minister from the coalition cabinet and sue the government over its creation of a new body to administer war-torn south.

The Southern Sudan Political Association, a grouping of southern intellectuals that also won eight seats in last year's parliamentary elections, denounced the formation last Thursday of a nine-man interim council to administer the three southern regions.

In a statement, the party said it will lodge a constitutional case against Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi's government for "direct violation" of the transitional constitution and the southern provinces self-government act of 1972.

For decades, there has been a power struggle between the majority Arab, Muslim northern Sudanese and the minority Christian and animist African Sudanese in the south. In 1972, former President Jaafar Numeiri temporarily brought peace to Sudan by dividing the south into three administrative regions.

The division of the south since has been controversial among southerners. The civil war restarted in 1983, with rebels demanding more autonomy and administrative and economic reforms from the government.

Creation of the southern council sparked a rift within the southern parties, which have 27 seats in parliament and four cabinet posts including that of Irrigation Minister Aldo Ajo, who announced his resignation on Tuesday.

Canadian freed by Iran returns home via Germany

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Canadian Engineer Philip Eng said Tuesday he felt fine after arriving in Frankfurt from Tehran, where he had been held by Iranian authorities since December.

Engs, wearing a blue blazer and gray flannel slacks, spoke briefly to reporters after he was driven to a departure gate in a small golf cart for a 12:40 p.m. (11:40 GMT) Air Canada flight to Toronto.

Asked about how his time in detention in Iran was, the Canadian responded "not too bad, not too bad."

"I feel fine," he added, but

declined to stop for more questions.

Getting out of the cart, one of many used to ferry people around the huge airport, Engs then strode to the gate for the flight. He had been waiting in a VIP lounge since his arrival from Tehran and did not hold a news conference.

Engs then boarded an Air Canada flight that departed Frankfurt at 12:40 p.m. (11:40 GMT).

Earlier, Jim Hentschel, a Canadian embassy counsellor, told the Associated Press: "He has arrived and is still at the airport."

Amal leader resigns

TYRE (J.T.) — A leading official from the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal Movement in Lebanon has resigned from his post as the movement's leader in South Lebanon.

Daoud Daoud announced his resignation due to ill health and asked his assistants not to refer any issues to him from now on.

Mr. Daoud said in a statement distributed in this South Lebanese port city that he was

willing to appear before an Amal military court to justify his decision.

Daoud Daoud has been in charge of Amal Movement's political affairs in Tyre since 1985. He was considered one of Amal's most enthusiastic leaders in support of the idea of disarming Palestinian refugee camps especially Rashidiyah camp in South Lebanon.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Cartoons
16:10 Children's programme
17:00 Children's programme
17:50 Circus
18:30 Arabic series
19:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Message from Cairo
20:40 Arab series
21:40 Wrestling
22:00 News in English
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Des chiffres et des lettres
18:30 L'écrit des ans
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Company
21:10 Documentary "The Africans"
22:00 News in English
23:30 Bestseller: Captain and the Kings etc (2)

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99.1 MHz, FM & parity on 99.1 MHz, SW

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Country Music
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Follow the Wind
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Jordan Week
17:30 Evening Show
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Rock Profile
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:55 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 A Cotswold Carpenter 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Report on Religion 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Morning World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Development '87 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 Quote Unquote 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Patrick Marry's Music Box 12:00 News Summary: Omibus 12:30 My Word 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 A Cotswold Carpenter 13:25 A Letter from Wales 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Masterpiece in Miniature 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Development '87 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Report on Religion 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 A Music of Work 17:30 After Hours 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 A Letter from Wales 19:15 Technologies for the 21st Century 19:30 New Ideas 19:40 Book Choice 19:50 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 720, 965, 11740, 11925 and 1210 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:57 News Summary 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 Music USA Jazz 22:00 News & Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 News 23:10 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of photos from Pompidou Centre in Paris at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12).

* An art exhibition by Spanish artist Patricia Vico at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12).

* An exhibition of photographs depicting sports activities in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* "Schlacht um Berlin" at Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

MEETING

* English teachers' evening at the British Council at 5:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre Library 644771

American Centre Library 641530

British Council 6361478

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre 634049

Spanish Cultural Centre 639777

Turkish Cultural Centre 665195

Haya Arts Centre 667181b

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. 645251

Amman Municipal Library 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631700.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal 'Al Qaf'a (Clashed Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terracotta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 634049.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisat. Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811285.

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr

06:30 (Sunrise) Duha

11:50 Dhur

14:54 'Asr

NEWS IN BRIEF

Odeh, Muasher leave for Arab council

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher left for Riyadh on Tuesday to take part in the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council which opens on Wednesday. The council's meeting will be attended by Arab ministers of finance and economy who will review recommendations and resolutions passed by economic experts and an annual report by the council's secretary general on trade and economic activity within the Arab World.

Majali to attend police meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali left for Riyadh on Tuesday to take part in a meeting at the Arab Centre for Security Studies by the higher Arab staff and command committee. The committee, formed from various Arab police forces, is due to open meetings on Saturday. On the committee are heads of police organisations in Arab countries.

Economic delegation leaves for India

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic delegation has left for India on an official visit expected to last several days. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks on economic and trade relations between India and Jordan. The delegation, led by Ministry of Supply Under Secretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, includes representatives of the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company. India is a major importer of Jordan's potash and phosphates and last year imported \$150 million worth of Jordanian products.

Shuneh graduates People's Army cadets

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — A ceremony was held on Tuesday to graduate the 14th batch of recruits of the People's Army. The graduates spent the past four weeks training in the use of light arms, military matters and civil defence operations. The commander of the People's Army distributed diplomas to the graduates at the end of the ceremony during which the graduates presented a performance of their new acquired skills.

Karak centre supports local societies

KARAK (Petra) — The social development department in Karak supervises the work of 20 charitable societies which offer services to women and children and operate centres for training in handicrafts and cultural and health matters, according to Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Maaita, the department's director. He said that through these societies, his department last year gave JD 45,396 to needy persons and old people in Karak Governorate and issued 95 cards enabling the needy to obtain free medical services at government health centres and hospitals. He said that a total of 757 persons are now active members of charitable societies in the governorate.

Directorate to honour working women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Directorate of Women at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development will honour "ideal working mothers" who, as a result of the death of their breadwinner (usually their husbands), have been obliged to work to support their children and raise them properly. The women to be honoured have all worked to support their families for more than five years. The celebration, organised by the Directorate of Women in cooperation with the Arab Club for Business and Professional Women, will be held on March 8 to mark International Women's Day.

Court sentences hashish dealer

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Awwad Salem Muddahi to 3½ years in prison with hard labour and fined him JD 350 for dealing in hashish.

Queen visits TV production company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday visited the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production where she was received by Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib, the company's general manager and chairman of board of administration Jawad Maraqa and senior staff.

Queen Noor toured the film studio, control room and technical and engineering sections and reviewed the recording and computerised editing methods used for various productions. The Queen also visited the post-production unit where she reviewed the technical operations under way in the preparation of an educational children's television programme being produced by the company.

She later met with Mr. Khatib and Mr. Maraqa and his senior staff. During the meeting, the company's current projects and future plans were discussed, with special concentration given to



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday inspects a set at the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production during a visit to the company's studios (Petra photo).

children's programmes, documentaries and cultural programmes and specialised productions in order to create a balance between staged production and other television programmes.

Queen Noor stressed the importance of well-developed facilities and capabilities in meeting

the developmental and social needs of Jordan and the Arab World, employing technical methods and expertise that will distinguish Jordanian television and cinema production.

Deported mayor of Jerusalem thanks government committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has received a message from the deported mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Rawhi Al Khatib, expressing appreciation for the government's decision to grant pensions to employees of the Arah Jerusalem Municipality who refused to work under or cooperate with the Israeli authorities.

Mr. Khatib, who was deported by the Israeli authorities following the annexation of the holy city, has been living in Amman.

The government-appointed higher committee for the affairs of the occupied territories earlier announced the allocation of JD 75,000 to cover pensions for Arah Jerusalem Municipality employees who are now without jobs.

Mr. Khatib expressed support for the government and the higher committee and thanked them for their efforts to help the Arab people of Jerusalem and Palestinians living under Israeli rule.

Romanian parliamentarians due in Amman on Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member Romanian parliamentary delegation is expected here on Feb. 15 on a four-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian parliamentarians.

A spokesman for the Romanian embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times that the delegation will be led by Mr. Nikolai Giosan, the president of the Romanian National Assembly. The Romanian parliamentarians will hold talks with speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al

Fayez, and will meet with Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

During the meetings, the delegation members are scheduled to discuss issues of common interest to Romania and Jordan with special focus on the Gulf war, the Middle East question and means of bolstering bilateral ties.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the delegation will also tour a number of Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites.

Development corporation issues tender for commercial complex

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Amman Development Corporation Sami Al Rashid has said that the corporation has offered a tender for the construction of a commercial complex on the old site of the Royal Automobile Club in Marka.

Mr. Rashid said that the complex, to be built within a 150 square metre area, will serve as a nucleus for other commercial centres in the future. He went on to say that the corporation has sold

some plots of land to citizens at reasonable prices and that the cost will be settled through monthly instalments over a period of three years.

Mr. Rashid also said that the commercial complex includes a number of warehouses, stores and housing units in addition to schools. Mr. Rashid said that the corporation has appropriated 14 dunums to be used by the Ministry of Education for constructing schools.

Hunger grips Beirut camps

(Continued from page 1)

specifically appealed for a truce that would allow time to deliver emergency relief to the most needy in the refugee camps.

Moroccan Television said Monday that King Hassan of Morocco proposed to send a plane to Lebanon to drop food supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh.

In a message to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel which was read out on television, the monarch said he asked Mr. Gemayel to do all he could to enable the food to reach the thousands in the camp. He said he was awaiting Mr. Gemayel's agreement.

King Hassan said the civilian aircraft would be sent by the Moroccan Red Crescent and would have a civilian crew.

King Hassan said the siege at the camp had attained "a degree of indescribable atrocity" with old people, women and children "living under a deluge of fire, bombs and missiles, deprived of food and medicines."

Saudi Arabia on Monday urged Lebanese authorities and "influential nationalist forces" in Lebanon to contain the "camps war".

Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), has appealed to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to exert all its efforts to secure the access of relief supplies to the camps in Lebanon.

Dr. Abu Qoura sent a cable to this effect to the ICRC president urging him to take speedy action in this direction. Dr. Abu Qoura also made a telephone call to Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Asshi, secretary-general of the Arab Red Crescent Societies Federation calling for a meeting of Arab Red Crescent societies to discuss the situation in the camps.

U.S. assists maternal, child health project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-year pilot project to improve maternal and child health in selected low income rural and urban communities was inaugurated this week with the donation of \$504,250 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to Save the Children Federation (SCF).

The agreement provides for the development of preventive health care programmes in a number of villages in the Bani Hamida area and one low-income community of 7,000 people in Amman, according to a press release issued by the American Centre in Amman.

Save the Children Federation, in cooperation with Health Ministry clinics, will train local community members and social workers in the essential components of preventive health care for children under five years and women of reproductive age. The intensive training will include oral rehydration therapy, infant and child nutrition, child spacing programmes, immunisation, and pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers. These trained community members will then explain and demonstrate simple, low-cost preventive health care procedures to each family, the release said.

Families from the communities involved in the project will be monitored by a joint government/SCF health team to establish a community-based registry of vital statistics. The documentation of infant and child growth rates and the corresponding nutritional status of the families, the rates of maternal mortality and other family health statistics will enable the Ministry of Health to plan future health care programmes for these communities, it continued.

Jordan, India open talks on operating direct air link

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Indian civil aviation delegation on Tuesday opened talks with Jordanian officials on the prospects of operating a direct air link between India and Jordan. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the talks are also aimed at boosting trade relations and promoting air travel operations between the two countries.

The delegation, led by Indian Civil Aviation Minister Jagdish Tytler, who arrived here earlier on Tuesday, is expected to hold meetings with senior officials from the Civil Aviation Authority and the Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline to discuss air transport cooperation, according to the agency.

Flights between Jordan and India are at present routed through Gulf countries and a direct link would enable Jordan to share the traffic of an estimated 10,000 Indian Christians who travel each year to the Israeli occupied West Bank to visit the holy places there. In addition, there are an estimated 4,000 Indians, mainly labourers employed in Jordan. It is also expected that Jordanians studying in Indian universities will benefit from direct flights which will eliminate lengthy transit stops in the Gulf.

Recently, RJ started bagging a good part of the Jordan-India traffic under an interim agreement with Air India. Under the accord the Jordanian carrier ferried passengers to Dubai for on-

ward flights to Bombay or Delhi aboard Air India. Fares offered under the RJ-Air India arrangement, which included hotel accommodation for the overnight stop at Dubai, are also competitive, according to passengers travelling on the route.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) officials were quoted as saying Air India had no immediate plans to start flights to Jordan but Royal Jordanian hoped to operate at least two direct flights a week to India.

RJ vice president for corporate planning, Mr. Nissar Arne, told the Jordan Times on Sunday that Jordan and India had been hold-

ing on-and-off discussions on direct flights and that a visit to India in October last year by His Majesty King Hussein was a turning point in the negotiations. RJ Board of Directors Chairman and Managing Director Ali Ghandour was among the Jordanian delegation that accompanied the King and held talks with Indian officials.

The delegation members were met at the Queen Alia International Airport by Mr. Dakkhan and senior officials from the Civil Aviation Authority and Royal Jordanian. The two-day visit is in response to an invitation by Mr. Dakkhan.

The Indian delegation included Mr. V. Patnayak, joint secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Dr. S. Bhatt, director of information and regulations of the directorate-general of civil aviation, as well as several other senior officials.

Gandhi sends message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — India's minister of state for civil aviation, Mr. Jagdish Tytler, who arrived here Tuesday on a two-day visit, said that he was carrying a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to His Majesty King Hussein on relations between the two countries. Mr. Tytler, who is heading a high-level Indian delegation to talks with the minister of transport and

officials of Royal Jordanian (RJ) said he was looking forward to the meeting with the King. The minister praised Indo-Jordanian relations and said views were identical of the two countries on various international political issues. On bilateral relations, Mr. Tytler said the joint Jordanian-Indian Economic Committee would be meeting in New Delhi next month.

Canada donates \$400,000 to W. Bank health scheme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Canada has announced a contribution of 400,000 Canadian dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for special health and education projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to an agency press release.

The grant to UNRWA will be used to equip an eye disease clinic, renovate three sewing centres, improve facilities at health centres, construct two additional classrooms to avoid triple shifting and repair school rooms in the West Bank and Gaza. Over the last several years, Canada has provided funds for the construction and repair of UNRWA installations in addition to its regular cash contribution. Two UNRWA clinics in Jordan are currently under construction with funds from Canada, the release said.

Canada has pledged Can\$ 8.75 million (U.S. \$6.3 million) for UNRWA operations in 1987. This is an increase of \$181,000 (U.S.) over Canada's 1986 contribution to UNRWA — which provides education, health and relief services to 2.1 million registered Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Workshop to discuss recent study on Jordan's plasticulture

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture will organise a workshop on Feb. 16 to discuss the results of a study on plasticulture in Jordan. The study has been conducted by a faculty team in cooperation with a group of French scientists working at the university's farm near Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley.

The three-day workshop is also designed to help scientists and experts in agriculture exchange views about production under

plastic cover in the Jordan Valley and will also tackle forecasting weather conditions to benefit farming.

Also to be discussed at the workshop is the subject of increasing production and improving the quality of crops. Scientists and agricultural experts from other countries will take part in the workshop in which the participants will review several working papers on farming and the study which has just been concluded in Jordan.

CDD chief inspects operations at Wadi Al Arab

IRBID (J.T.) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh and Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin on Tuesday visited Wadi Al Arab dam in Irbid Governorate where a search is continuing for a 20-year-old man who is thought to have drowned while taking a swim in the dam 12 days ago.

The man, Abdullah Hassan Al Rousan, was reported missing on Jan. 30 and was last seen swimming in the lake behind the dam. According to Civil Defence Department officials the reservoir is very muddy and its bed is covered with shrubs and rocks, and this has been hindering the search operation. There has been no trace of the missing man and CDD officials think he was covered by large amounts of earth from a landslide as he was swimming near the edge of the lake, which contains at least 12 million cubic metres of water.

The governor told Petra that notices have been posted around the lake warning the public against swimming in the lake, which is 50 metres deep in some places.

Beirut kidnappers prepare swap list

(Continued from page 1)

should not die," one source said. "Israel's guarded response to an offer to free an Israeli airman as part of a hostage deal for 400 prisoners, and a cooling of the U.S. military threat persuaded the kidnappers to play for time."

Professors Robert Polhill, Alann Steen, Jesse Turner and an Indian colleague, Mithleshwar Singh, were seized on the Beirut University College (BUC) campus on Jan. 24. They are among 26 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon.

The decision to extend the deadline was announced in a handwritten statement in Arabic

delivered to a Western news agency along with a picture of Mr. Polhill. The hostage, frail-looking and bearded, wearing a T-shirt and spectacles, was pictured looking into the camera with a faint smile.

The abduction of nine foreigners in west Beirut last month prompted a U.S. naval buildup in the area, but Washington has since reduced the number of warships on alert off the coast.

"The kidnappers saw this as a positive development," said one political source, adding that it had also helped missing British church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared on Jan. 20 during a mission to secure freedom for

foreign hostages. Shiite Amal militia chief Nabih Berri said last week he was ready to release the Israeli airman captured by his followers last October if Israel and the kidnappers agreed to a prisoners-for-hostages deal.

Mr. Peres has not ruled out secret talks on Mr. Berri's offer. But he said he was not sure if Mr. Berri had control over the kidnappers and did not think his offer warranted any immediate reply.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has called kidnappers of Americans "animals" and said a way must be found to make them pay.

White House defends Reagan over 'moderates' in Iran

(Continued from page 1)

have assets" — an apparent reference to American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Mr. Nir met the vice president while Mr. Bush was in Israel during a trip that also included stops in Jordan and Egypt.

Fitzwater, who was the vice president's press secretary at the time, insisted on Monday there was no discrepancy between what Mr. Bush was told and what Reagan's explanation of the Iran initiative to the American people.

Mr. Reagan has said he was

trying to promote ties with "moderate" elements in Tehran and was not trading arms for hostages.

The Fuller memo "doesn't change a thing," said Fitzwater. "The initial reason for the dialogue was to establish a relationship with elements friendly to the United States — call them moderates, call them whatever."

Mr. Reagan, in his state of the union speech two weeks ago, said

"I do not believe it was wrong to try to establish contacts with a country of strategic importance or to try to save lives."

Mr. Reagan also said his administration did not achieve what it wished and that serious mistakes were made in trying to do so.

"Once you've said that, it doesn't matter whether you try to label (the factions) radicals or moderates or whatever," Fitzwater said.

He refused to say if Mr. Reagan had been briefed on Mr. Bush's meeting with Mr. Nir.

McFarlane recovering after 'suicide attempt'

(Continued from page 1)

A friend who declined to be identified told Reuters he believed Mr. McFarlane had been under strain as a result of the arms scandal, which erupted in November 1986 when it was disclosed that profits had been diverted, possibly illegally, to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Valium, trademark for a tranquilliser called diazepam, is available only under prescription. It is

usually prescribed for anxiety and signs of an overdose include sleepiness, confusion and coma.

Mr. McFarlane was Mr. Reagan's top White House foreign policy aide from October 1983 until he quit in December 1985, to become a private strategic affairs analyst.

According to congressional testimony and widely published reports he was largely responsible for persuading Mr. Reagan to

reopen contacts with Iran broken after the 1979-81 hostage crisis in Tehran.

After his resignation Mr. McFarlane undertook a series of undercover missions involving arms and hostage negotiations with Iranians. He has denied he quit in order to organise the hazardous undertaking as a private citizen distanced from Mr. Reagan.

Land transport assembly to convene in Sana'a on Feb. 14

(Continued from page 1)

assembly meetings, a seminar on the use of transport in the service of Arab national development will be held, to be attended by several specialised Arab and international organisations and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

According to Mr. Dmour, several working papers are to be submitted to the seminar and will include one tackling means of reducing road accidents, another dealing with the role of insurance, and a third on the adverse effects of cars and their fumes on public safety and the environment in general.



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Independence in the balance

THROUGHOUT the world, the BBC has a reputation for honesty and independence. However, it seems that there are those in Britain itself who do not agree. The British government, or more particularly Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the chairman of her Conservative Party, Norman Tebbit, seem to be pursuing a vendetta against the corporation. It is difficult to avoid the suspicion that their objective is to make the BBC a compliant government mouthpiece.

Should they achieve this aim, it would destroy forever the BBC's reputation for fairness and consistently good reporting which is the envy of every other broadcasting network in the world. That is not to say that the BBC is without faults or that it is above reproach. But it towers above the others and is the best ambassador Britain possesses. It does more for Britain's image than anything or anyone else the British government can put forward.

However, neither Mrs. Thatcher nor Mr. Tebbit appear to be interested in such an invaluable asset.

They are firmly convinced that the broadcasting corporation is biased against them and is in the control of left-wing, unrepentant subversives whose sympathies lie somewhere east of the Urals. It matters not that 10 years ago, the Labour government was making remarkably similar complaints of bias, the only difference being that instead of left-wingers, they claimed that the BBC was in the hands of the right.

The big difference between the previous Labour administration and the present Conservative one is that the latter has not been prepared to simply air its dissatisfaction and leave it at that. Ever since the Falklands war there has been a growing campaign of innuendo and rumour, alleging that there is something rotten deep down in the BBC. It is nothing short of a character assassination attempt.

The campaign, sustained by continual sniping from Conservative back-bench MPs, took a new turn last year with Mr. Tebbit's attack on the BBC's coverage of the U.S. raid on Libya. It has now reached something of a climax over the BBC's intended programme on Britain's Zircon spy satellite project and the sacking of the director general of the BBC, Alasdair Milne.

The two are unrelated; the timing is an unfortunate coincidence. However, the police's heavy-handed seizure of documents and film from the BBC's Glasgow offices two weeks ago and the fact that the government was known to be gunning for Milne have understandably given great cause for concern in Britain. The noise around the BBC's neck seems to be getting tighter. Its very independence appears to be in the balance.

On one level, the actions of the Glasgow police in searching the BBC's offices (an action more normally associated with South Africa or East Europe) are bound to have an intimidatory effect. On another far more important level, there is the question as to what sort of person will now take over the running of the BBC. Will he be a government stooge?

As yet no decision has been taken. But whoever is chosen, no matter how determinedly independent he might want to be, his freedom of action is going to be that much more restricted than that of his predecessors. He will be exceptionally wary of antagonising Mrs. Thatcher.

In short, the British government is much more in control of the BBC than it was a year ago. Of course Mr. Tebbit, who has very much been the man behind the campaign, whom many regard as the natural successor to Mrs. Thatcher and whose political views often make him seem tame in comparison, would deny that he wants to control the corporation. His line is that he merely wants it to be truly impartial.

His problem is that very few people believe him. The BBC's problem is that once its reputation for independence goes, it will be next to impossible to restore — Arab News, Jeddah.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Resistance continues

THE people of the occupied Arab territories will certainly not be deterred or intimidated by Israel's repressive measures against them, nor will they kneel before the invaders but will continue their resistance activity. These people have offered more sacrifice when nine students from Al Najah University were fired on and wounded by the Israeli forces during an anti-Israeli demonstration. This is not the first and will not be the last incident of its kind because of the Israeli crimes which are continuing against our people and because of Israel's organised acts of terrorism against the Arab people of Palestine. The Israelis are wrong to believe that the bullets fired on the Arab inhabitants will force them to give up the struggle for regaining their rights and homeland. The Palestinian people are more determined than ever before to resist occupation and fight for their rights and their homeland. But it is to be noted that at this time when the Israelis are escalating their repressive measures against our people they receive gifts of advanced planes and other weapons from those who have been encouraging them to carry on with their atrocities against the Palestinian people. These gifts coming from the U.S. administration, and these planes which are intended to pour death on the Arab people are meant to disrupt all initiatives aimed at establishing a durable peace in our region. The Israeli measures and the American gifts and the use of force are bound to open the door wide for further desperation and further acts of violence and more bloodshed.

Al Dustour: Economic reforms

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai spoke before Cabinet members and heads of departments on Monday re-emphasising his government's commitment to the directives contained in King Hussein's letter of assignment. He said that the government was going ahead with plans to implement its economic and social programmes and modernise the country and offer better services to the citizens of Jordan. There is no doubt that the government has been involved in intensified measures for boosting the national economy and there is no doubt that the prime minister was shouldering the task of leading the government towards achieving that goal. The result of these efforts appeared in continued growth in the economy despite the adverse circumstances, the negative external influences and the persistent challenges. The healthy economic situation and the sound course followed by the government in dealing with circumstances and its continuing drive towards progress has been quite obvious to all. The government has been faithful to its pledges and has honoured its commitments in the drive to modernise the civil service system and updating laws and regulations pertaining to government administration and finance. We hope that this excellent performance will continue, and we trust that the government will take further measures towards reducing expenditure and increasing the country's revenues through boosting the national industry.

A leading Palestinian writer and journalist has been banished from his homeland by the Israeli authorities. In this article, which appeared in the Guardian newspaper last week, Akram Hanieh describes the emotional and political impact of his painful journey into exile

— Akram Hanieh was editor of the Jerusalem daily Al Sheab (The People). Circulation 5,000 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. — Departed December 28, 1986. — Now travelling on an Algerian passport. — No place of residence.

IT was 5 a.m. A rainy November morning. The professional hands of Israeli soldiers knocked at my door. When I opened, I glimpsed 10 or more soldiers crowding the steps leading to my front door.

Their commanding officer informed me that I had to accompany them to the headquarters of the military administration in Ramallah. They entered my room and fiddled with books, magazines, and records. I was about to ask them if they had a search warrant, but I dismissed the idea as a waste of time. They uncovered the drafts of a collection of short stories. They scrutinised the pages, asked some indifferent questions, then tossed them aside.

They allowed me to dress before shoving me into the back seat of a car that, together with other cars belonging to the border guards, was blocking all entrances leading to my house.

At the headquarters I was met by two intelligence officers and several soldiers. One of the officers read me the order stating that I no longer had the right to stay in my homeland.

I will never forget the strange pleasure on the officers' face as he slowly did the reading while closely watching my face. I learned later that neither the general who signed the order depriving me of my homeland, nor the intelligence officers who read it were born there.

On the journey from Ramallah to solitary confinement I thought of everything except what deportation actually implied. I remembered the warning given to my newspaper weeks earlier, by an administrator of the military rule, that it had to reconsider its political line, or else. I recalled the endless letters from the military censor reminding me that every word intended to see the light on the pages of my paper had to be sent to him. I remembered the long hours I had to spend in my office to ensure perfect adherence to the rules of censorship. Despondent expressions of the tired reporters upon realising that most of what they had written was not allowed to appear. I could vividly see the face of the sad young poet who came often to my office carrying some new beautiful poem, only to be told that his last one was banned.

Along the way, I kept looking out to the little villages and towns about to wake up. I found myself attempting to engrave the picture of every tree, every field, every hill we passed by deep into the folds of my memory. I was endeavouring to hold on to the magical details of a beautiful homeland I was about to be denied.

For 20 hours over the following two days, I sat facing them. Three officers appointed by the same general who signed my deportation order. They were to judge my appeal against his decision. Three more from the military



A man without a home... 'My name is Akram Hanieh not Anatoly Scharansky.'

Voice in the wilderness

administration together with five intelligence officers. On my side were my lawyer, her assistant and an interpreter.

They threw at me tens of assorted charges. My lawyer objected that it was not humanly possible for a single person to do all the things I was accused of doing.

When I was asked to reply to the charges, I declared that I confessed to only one crime. The excitement on their faces was unmistakable. I confessed to being a proud Palestinian, to my refusal to accept Israeli occupation of my homeland and to my advocacy of my peoples right to freedom and independence.

I pleaded with them. "Please, gentlemen, let me be tried in front of a military court."

The sincerity of my request crashed on their eagerness to close my file as quickly as possible. The faster it all ended, the better were their chances of a speedy promotion. I started to feel increasingly that I was playing a pathetic part in a boring

overdrawn farce, but I persisted.

The military prosecutor shouted, "We have numerous 'SECRET FILES' that prove the guilt of the defendant."

My lawyer challenged them to present one shred of evidence implicating me. Dared them to open those secret files.

"This is impossible," came the reply of the appeals committee. "The exposure of the secret files endangers the security of Israel."

Kafka's Trial never figured so sharply in my mind as it did at that moment.

Prison. Long days, longer nights. I continued my struggle to build in my mind the details of the magic world I was about to lose.

Into my consciousness I drew the picture of my parent's garden. My book shelves. My desk. My office at the newspaper. The faces of my family and friends. The houses scattered alongside the road between Ramallah and Jerusalem, which I travelled to work every morning. From my cell I monitored the

news of a solidarity campaign that was gathering to save me from exile. My people started it. Individuals and groups from around the world joined in. Even some Israelis spoke out on my behalf.

One Israeli legal expert declared that all the charges against me could be summed up in one: the attempt to influence public opinion, which he stressed was an essential part of my career as a journalist and storyteller. A prominent Israeli novelist expressed his shame because "we are expelling a writer from his land."

But the Israeli establishment seemed to have lost its sense of shame or embarrassment a long time ago. From the time it refused to recognise the existence of the Palestinians and their rights, and proceeded to occupy their land, uproot them and work to destroy their identity.

That establishment was in no mood to listen to voices of sanity from inside or outside Israel. The Red Cross worked to find me a shelter in exile. The list of

countries willing to receive a Palestinian expelled by Israel was very short. The choice was made simple.

On the steps of the Swissair plane I took a final look behind me. I could only see the heavily armed soldiers surrounding the plane. The Red Cross representative commented that it must be an historical moment in my life.

It was a record breaking moment. The darkest. The bleakest. The saddest. It was the start of a journey to the unknown, whose pains and torment are perhaps unknown to all except the Palestinians and those who are ejected to exile.

I arrived in Geneva moments after the plane I was supposed to board to Algiers had departed. It was my first taste of being a banished Palestinian. I possessed a Red Cross document valid for only one day. A "Citizen of The World" for one day, yet the Swiss refused me entry. On a transit lounge bench I had to spend the first night. The relentless unforgiving night.

Foremost in my mind, was the quest for a place that would accept me to live in. A place to die and be buried in.

Here I am. Moving from one country to the next, or the one further away. Getting used to the inconvenience of hotel rooms. The agony of taxi metres ticking during the rush hour. The anxiety that sticks itself to Palestinians when crossing borders or arriving at airports.

I travel to explain my case: a Palestinian writer expelled from his homeland for things he wrote and things he said. I travel to find support for my return, or to stop more of my people from facing the same fate.

Yet in all my wandering I can not forget that I am only a Palestinian, and not a Russian dissident. That my name is Akram Hanieh and not Anatoly Scharansky. I do realise that doors will not open to me as they open to him, that my case will never be met with the same enthusiasm his has been met.

My journey through the "diaspora" continues, yet, despite my expulsion, Jerusalem seems somehow closer.

Uncertainty in Afghanistan before peace talks

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

KABUL — Hopes and fears are mingled in Afghanistan as the country awaits talks with Pakistan that could decide the outcome of the eight-year-old war between Soviet-backed Afghan forces and Muslim guerrillas.

The talks, beginning in Geneva on February 25, will discuss a timetable for the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops. Other issues, including an end to foreign aid to the rebels, have been settled at previous talks, at least on paper.

But whether the United Nations-mediated negotiations succeed or fail, diplomats in Kabul say that despite official optimism the outlook for Afghanistan remains uncertain.

Failure of the talks would presumably mean a continuation of the war that has already ravaged this isolated, backward country, and proved a diplomatic fiasco for the Soviet Union.

If they succeed, and the Soviets leave, a country riven by conflicting ideologies of socialism, capitalism and Islam and by deep-rooted tribal and factional feuds will face a formidable task in healing the wounds of civil war.

The pro-Soviet Kabul government's strategy proclaimed at the start of this year is "national reconciliation," a plan Western diplomats say must have been hatched in Moscow, although Soviet officials say it was an Afghan initiative.

The programme involves a government ceasefire and attempts to woo the guerrillas back to civilian life and a place in society.

Some guerrillas have clearly accepted the call, although diplomats suspect government assertions that more than 20,000 have laid down their arms are exaggerated.

Seven prominent guerrilla leaders based in Pakistan have rejected the plan and vowed to fight on.

How effectively they could continue if Pakistan withdrew cooperation and the flow of Western and Chinese arms dried up is a matter of much speculation in Kabul, where the government dismissed the seven leaders as an irrelevance.

One strong card in government hands is the evident war-weariness of much of the Afghan population. "We are tired of killing our brothers," is a refrain heard over and over again from

people of many different shades of opinion.

In addition, signals have been multiplying from Moscow that the Soviet leadership is resolved to rid itself of the vexatious Afghan problem.

"The Soviets keep saying they want to leave but so far there has been no evidence that they have made any of the hard choices," one Western diplomat commented.

Other diplomats have had their optimism dented by guerrilla reports of a major Afghan and Soviet advance on rebel strongholds around the south-western town of Khost.

Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshnam denied in an interview with Reuters on Feb. 8 that there had been any such advance.

Afghan officials accuse the United States of insincerity in saying it wants to see a settlement and believe that Washington is trying to persuade Pakistan not to agree to any deal that would let Soviet forces withdraw painlessly.

If national reconciliation works, one major unknown is what the present government envisages with its offer of a future coalition administration.

Afghan legal sources say a constitution now being drafted is likely to legitimise a multi-party system but officials refuse to say whether other groupings would have the same status as the currently-ruling People's Democratic Party (PDDA).

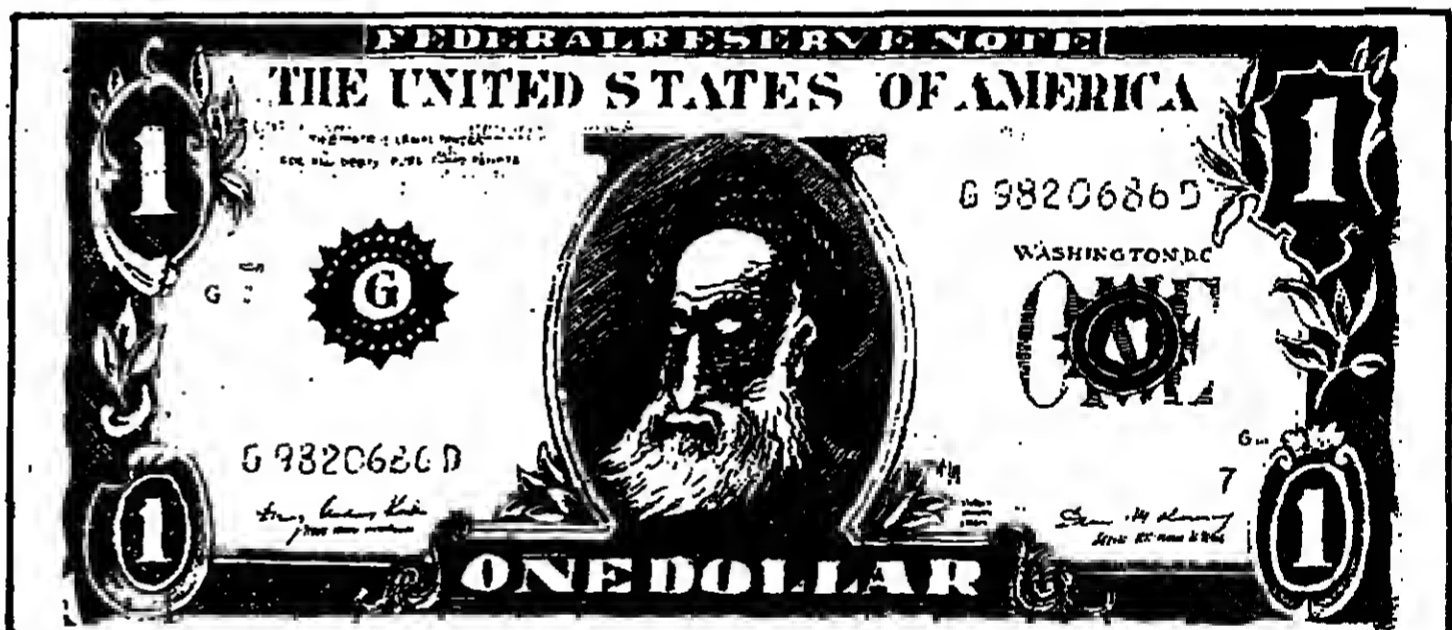
The PDDA is divided into at least two factions, whose bloody internecine feuds only subsided with the Soviet intervention in December 1979.

Western diplomats suspect that a car bomb explosion that killed at least four people near the Indian embassy in Kabul on February 1 stemmed from a new flare-up of personal or factional rivalries within the ruling party rather than from guerrilla action.

They said indiscriminate bombings were alien to the style of the guerrillas, who have been blamed by the government for the outrage.

The talk of power-sharing has been enough to worry some rank-and-file members of the PDDA, who clearly believe they would be well-advised to make themselves scarce if the guerrillas should ride back into the town one day.

"What will happen to the 160,000 members of the party?" one of them anxiously asked a Western visitor last week.



Tales from a Persian weapons bazaar

By Vahe Petrossian

"AYATOLLAH" Ahmad Kargaru collapsed with a stroke in Geneva in November 1985 when he heard that the Hawk anti-aircraft missiles jet delivered to Tehran by Israel were old and useless models. Former Israeli intelligence agent and weapons dealer Jacob Nimrodi, who knew the "ayatollah" as a deputy to Iran's prime minister, managed to calm him and an outraged Iranian government by immediately refunding their money.

Among other Iranian "officials" involved in the U.S.-Iran weapons-for-hostages deal — which began in 1985 and ended in late 1986 in what is now known as the Iranagate affair, was Manuchehr Ghorbanifar, security adviser to Tehran. On the fringes was Cyrus Hashemi, a weapons dealer and "cousin" of Iran's majlis (parliament) Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani. Lurking in the background was Rafsanjani's "son" in Europe, who eventually absconded to Canada with millions of dollars in misappropriated funds.

These what-really-happened accounts are among dozens that have appeared since the Iranagate affair first unfolded when Rafsanjani revealed on 4 November that former U.S. National Security Council head Robert McFarlane made a secret trip to Iran in May 1986 to trade weapons for U.S. hostages in Lebanon. The accounts are detailed and fascinating; they are false, however. But they do raise serious questions about who the Americans and the Israelis thought they were dealing with.

Rafsanjani's son is in his early teens. Cyrus Hashemi died in mysterious circumstances in early 1986 in London. He was not in any way related to Rafsanjani. Ghorbanifar is a former member of the Shah's secret police, Savak, who had no official mandate from Tehran. As for the weak-hearted Kargaru, he is no ayatollah — just another weapons merchant who went into exile after the revolution.

This cast of characters, sometimes augmented by other Iranian "officials," met Nimrodi and U.S. officials throughout most of 1985 and part of 1986. They met to discuss a reconciliation between Iran and the U.S., and an exchange of U.S. weapons for U.S. hostages.

The Iranians explained they were worried about what would happen after Imam Khomeini's death. They said they feared the Soviet Union and a communist takeover. They wanted U.S. and western help to boost the moderates' position; in return they were prepared to serve western interests. Weapons-for-hostages was seen as the way to get things started, "a step at a time."

Over a period of months, the U.S. and Israel became convinced there was a network of pro-western moderate through-out Iranian officialdom. It was a tantalising prospect that helped to draw senior Israeli government officials and the White House into what was to turn out to be a disastrous series of mistakes.

In congressional testimony in Washington, McFarlane has now revealed that U.S. policy on Iran had been based on such tales since 1985. The U.S. had virtually no independent intelligence to support its policy. It relied primarily on Israel which, in turn, relied primarily on Ghorbanifar. Ghorbanifar, who at one stage had aroused the suspicion of

some U.S. officials, in turn had failed a U.S. lie-detector test. Except for his name, every single answer he gave was judged to be a lie.

Not all the facts in the Iranagate affair have come to light. There are "pro-western" and "moderate" officials in the Iranian bureaucracy, but whether they would be in charge of or connected with Iran's weapons purchases seems somewhat unlikely. And certainly, senior Iranian officials such as Rafsanjani did get involved in the end — although they themselves appear to have been fooled by the weapons merchants.

However, according to congressional testimony and other revelations so far, the White House and the Israeli government appear to have been misled by a group of exiled Iranians posing as ayatollahs, deputy ministers and other important personages. Rafsanjani alleged in November that this was what had happened, repeating the allegation in late January. "You made a mistake (in your efforts to come closer to Iran) and were deceived by the (weapons) brokers into thinking that Iran would shake hands with you in order to secure material concessions," he said on 25 January.

Since November, Rafsanjani has made clear Iran has no objection to dealing with the U.S. through weapons brokers. And in the latest episode of the affair, Rafsanjani confirmed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's 21 January revelation that the two sides have had a further meeting.

This meeting took place in Frankfurt on 13 December. According to Shultz, it was between U.S. State Department,

CIA and Iranian officials; according to Rafsanjani, it was between State Department officials and Iranian "purchasing agents, working under intelligence officials."

The U.S. side had apparently come to discuss an improvement in relations and to make clear there would be no more weapons sales. The Iranians apparently came to discuss weapons purchases. After the meeting, the Iranian side had further talks about weapons with an unauthorised CIA official, according to Shultz, who says he immediately rushed to the White House to demand that the discussions be stopped.

In his January 27 state of the union speech, Reagan admitted that his administration had made mistakes in its dealings with Iran. But he defended the effort to improve relations and the desire to free U.S. hostages. Both the president and Shultz described the Islamic republic as a political reality the U.S. would have to deal with — although normal relations were unlikely for some time.

Referring to when he worked for the U.S. construction firm Bechtel, Shultz said he had some dealings with Iranians.

In Tehran, Rafsanjani said the U.S. had come to Frankfurt with a "plan," but Iran's agents had been instructed that no plan would be accepted before they release our property. "This was a reference to frozen funds and undelivered weapons held by the U.S. since the 1979 revolution. 'We do not trust the U.S. any more. They are not honest,' Rafsanjani added — Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Magazine, London.

Arab historians seek to rewrite Arab history

By Issam Hamza
Renter

ABU DHABI — Arab historians are fighting a crusade against what they say are misconceptions and falsehoods in the way Arab history has been written in the West.

The 12,000-strong Federation of Arab Historians, which held its biannual general assembly in Abu Dhabi, launched a bid to rewrite aspects of Arab history and draw attention to what it deems anti-Arab bias in Western textbooks.

"Our main mission is to rewrite the history of the Arab Nation... to clear it from the negative attitudes and highlight the positive aspects," said Abdul Kader Al Najjar, secretary general of the Baghdad-based group.

A committee formed in 1985 has been meeting to discuss how to approach the monumental task.

Among the options are a collective research effort by members of the committee or assigning individual historians to address the most pressing topics.

The assembly agreed to sponsor a series of seminars to discuss Arab history as represented in Western textbooks. The first will be held in 1988 in the United States, followed by others in France, Britain and West Germany.

Scholars from each of these countries will be invited to join Arab historians to discuss ways of correcting misconceptions, Najjar said.

Mohammed Mursi Abdullah, a

federation member and director of the Abu Dhabi Documentation Centre, said there were numerous examples of distortion.

One of the most common, he said, was the view that Islam was spread in the seventh through ninth centuries merely by the sword of marauding Arab tribes.

Abdullah said presenting the Islamic wars as armed robberies by tribesmen was historically incorrect and served to associate the Islamic message with negative attitudes.

In fact, Islam was highly tolerant of other religions and this helped it to spread so quickly, he said.

He gave an illustration well-known to Arab schoolchildren but little cited in the West about

the Muslim conqueror, Omar Ibn Al As, who ruled Egypt in the mid-seventh century.

When he refused to punish his son for hitting a Christian in the bazaar, the Christian went to Islam's highest authority at the time, the khalifa Omar Bin Al Khatib, who told the Christian to beat the ruler's son in public.

Abdullah said: "I must say there were orientalists who wrote wonderful and good books about Arab history. But there has been much distortion, especially by Zionist scholars."

He said even some "lazy" Arab historians were guilty of anti-Arab attitudes because they had copied Western books without referring to the original sources. Some books accused the Arabs

of burning the Alexandria library during their invasion of Egypt in the seventh century whereas it was actually burned in the first century by the Romans, he said.

In the colonial history of the Gulf, some books portray the Arabs as evil pirates.

But according to a study by the ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, a member of the federation, many of the so-called pirates were engaged in legitimate defence of their trading interests from encroachment by the British.

"It is natural that during the second half of the twentieth century we review these writings to evaluate them and to correct what is wrong and this is basically our job as a federation,"

Abdullah said.

The federation has also taken a strong stand against activities organised by Tel Aviv University for July to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the battle of Hittin, a decisive Muslim victory over the Crusaders.

The battle enabled Muslim ruler Salah Al Din Al Ayyubi to recapture Jerusalem on October 2, 1187, which the federation agreed to name Arab Historians' Day.

The historians' group objects to what it says are Israeli misrepresentations of the battle and agreed to boycott any Arab historian who attends the festivities.

The federation plans to organise its own celebration in July in either Damascus or Amman, Najjar said.

Rome's stray cats grow fat on spaghetti

By Clare Lovell
Renter

ROME — Rome's stray cats, which provided food for the city's starving population during World War II, are growing fat on spaghetti and fresh liver as Italy's fortunes rise.

Cats have prowled Roman streets since ancient times. Now, thousands of them live mostly in the ruins of imperial Rome, playing and sleeping among the decapitated marble statues of the forum and under the crumbling arches of the colosseum.

Although Italy is not a traditionally cat-fancying country, the strays are looked after by a dedicated group of animal lovers, mostly women, who turn out every day to feed them.

Some are eccentric old ladies, lonely and down on their luck, for whom the cats are company and comfort, but others are people who do it simply because they like the animals.

"I suppose I have a weakness for cats," said Luciana Polini who returns from her office job in the evening to feed about 30 multi-coloured felines living in the ruins of Trajan's forum in the city centre.

"I have seven of my own. Some I took home from here when they

were ill. I don't like to see them suffer," she said.

She has been ministering to the forum cats for more than 10 years. At first they just received family leftovers. Now she cooks extra spaghetti and buys fresh liver and tinned food to feed them, because she can afford it.

Italy's fortunes have risen over the past few years. Galloping inflation has been brought under control and the country is now vying with Britain as the world's fifth most industrialised nation. There is an unemployment rate of almost 12 per cent, but the capital's shops bulge with expensive luxury items.

The previously thin and undernourished strays are reaping the benefits. A large and comfortable colony lives in the ruins of an ancient Roman water works surrounded by a bustling morning market. Stall-holders throw them the meat scraps that used to be sold as cheap cats for stew.

At Ostia Antica just outside Rome, they enjoy picknickers' left-overs and hand-outs from the bar.

But the cats are never entirely safe. In winter the weaker ones die of cold and hundreds fall victim to epidemics of feline enteritis and influenza.

"Kittens born in colonies, who

survive the first winter have good chance. Those who suffer most are the abandoned cats," said Antonio Iacoe, president of the national Animal Protection Society, a voluntary organisation which has too little money to cope with abandoned animals.

Hundreds of cats and dogs are abandoned every year, particularly in the summer when families go on holiday. They join the "many thousands" Iacoe says are already out on their own.

The abandoned dogs roam in packs on the outskirts of the city. The cats, less streetwise than those born wild, often fall victim to cars, vivisectionists, fur dealers and practical jokes.

In Polini's colony, a female tabby lost an eye after small boys tied a firework to its tail. Cats are often targets for stone-throwers. Many Romans dislike cats. Some are frightened of them. Superstitious drivers will reverse down a street and drive out of their way to avoid passing a black cat which is considered unlucky.

But Iacoe dismisses accusations that the strays are a hazard to health.

"If anything, they stop the spread of disease by killing rats and mice. Rome be over-run with vermin if it were not for the cats," he said.

Berkeley rekindles the 60s spirit of love and violence

By Christopher Reed

SAN FRANCISCO — The turbulent 1960s, when violent politics and philosophy of love transfixed a generation, will be treated as history this spring by the institution where much of the action took place, the University of California at Berkeley.

An adult education course sponsored by the university will offer a two-day seminar in March entitled "The Sixties" for 1,000 participants prepared to pay \$75. For that they will be able to hear some of the era's most revered gurus talking about the period.

The coordinator, author and historian, Dr. Peter Carroll, said: "They told me to round up everybody from the 1960s that you want and practically everybody we invited said yes." He expects a sell-out.

Dr. Carroll emphasises that the seminar will not lapse into cosy nostalgia. "We are not going in for those tired media resurrections and hand dismissals. It will be a serious investigation to see if the period's values are still relevant and the movement's legacy still endures. I suspect that it

does."

The oldest speaker will be Dr. Benjamin Spock, the paediatrician and author of the best-selling baby care book, who is 83. An opponent of the Vietnam war in the 1960s and 1970s, he is still active in peace demonstrations and was recently arrested during a rally. He will speak on the anti-war movement.

Another speaker is Abbie Hoffman, founder of the Yippies (Youth International Party) and author of Revolution For The Hell Of It. Mr. Hoffman, who is now a comfortable 50 years old, disappeared after drug charges in the 1970s but resurfaced in 1981, will speak on "social activism."

Timothy Leary, the former Harvard psychology lecturer and psychedelic drug proponent, will discuss the counter culture, something he does for much bigger fees these days on the lecture circuit. Harry Edwards, now a Berkeley professor and a black activist who helped orchestrate the protest of American black sprinters at the Mexico Olympics in 1968, will talk about the civil rights movement.

Betty Friedan, "founding mother" of the modern feminist movement, will talk about its origins and the "sexual revolution." Speaking on the era's arts and letters will be Ken Kesey, author of the best-seller, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which was also made into a film. The music of the period will be examined by singers and musicians, Mimi Fariña and Country Joe McDonald.

Conspicuous by its absence will be any lecture on the free speech movement, the student rebellion which disrupted the Berkeley campus and spread to universities around the world.

The Berkeley student leader at the time, Mario Savio, was the only person invited to decline.

One reason for the seminar, to be held at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, was this year's 20th anniversary of the city's hippie "summer of love" in the Haight-Ashbury district. Today, however, the Haight has undergone a transformation many believe has overtaken the 1960s generation — from Yippie to Yuppie — *The Guardian*.

The Kingdom may be United but the faucets are divided

By Beppe Severgnini

LONDON — A simpleminded soul might be convinced that the most fascinating subject of conversation for a foreigner in Britain would be the royal family, Margaret Thatcher or the castles of Scotland. Not so, believe me.

The most attractive subject concerns certain absolutely extraordinary British habits that have baffled the best brains of Europe. For example, no one has up to now been able to give a convincing explanation of why the English persist in fabricating sinks with two faucets, one for hot and one for cold water. The faucets are usually placed near the corners, so that the user sometimes burns his hands, and sometimes freezes them and never manages to wash them.

The habit is so ingrained that even an impressive publicity campaign in the newspapers, designed to encourage the saving of energy, carries the picture of a sink which, in Italy, one would only find in some mountain shed. The mystery of the double faucet is closely related to that of the bidet. The English continue to ignore its existence and no one is quite sure why.

A certain aversion to washing appears demonstrated, despite the fact that British statisticians are working to prove the opposite. It seems that in no other European country is as much water consumed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

I am not the only one who has such preoccupations. I recently met an Italian banker in London. Instead of talking about the stock exchange, we ended up discussing English bathrooms.

Another obsession of his — and another British oddity — are the door handles on trains, which exist only on the outside. The English, who know this, open the window, lean out, open the door and descend. Foreigners can be easily spotted because they frantically paw at the door before reaching the station. At the station they yell "Let me out!" in front of a perplexed public, and with luck they succeed in getting off only three stops later.

Italians are disoriented by these peculiarities. A school president, Renato Franco, wrote me to ask why, in an article, I mentioned "English girls who do not wear stockings and spend the winter with ultramarine-blue legs." The question is one of the

most compelling I have ever been asked.

To satisfy the reader, I did some research. Stockingless British women told me they walk around bare-legged because they do not feel the cold. I asked why, if they are not cold, their legs get blue. They said that a leg can become blue without its owner feeling the cold.

I then thought that perhaps legs remained bare out of economic necessity, but the hypothesis had to be abandoned: Girls with bare legs go dancing, spending in one night enough to buy five pairs of stockings. So I continued my investigation and discovered this: Middle-class girls wear nylon stockings more often than their working class colleagues; girls from the South more often than those from the North; London's transvestites more than anyone.

I also learned — and this could be a crucial piece of evidence — that English girls believe they are attractive without stockings, and even more attractive if they wear pointed shoes, in fake leather and with stiletto heels, thanks to which the (compressed) foot takes on a bright, red colour, which goes perfectly with the ultramarine blue of the leg.

A second chance for the Soviet media

By Patrick Cockburn

MOSCOW — "It used to be very easy for an editor to have a liberal reputation in the Soviet Union. You could always say to a writer: 'Of course I'd like to publish your stuff' and then add that the censor or your boss had stopped publication."

These days, editors publish what they want, says Mr. Vitaly Korotich, editor of the Soviet weekly news and cultural magazine *Ogonek* and one of a new breed of Soviet editors willing and able to take advantage of the end of near total censorship to publish what they want. In six months as editor he has already transformed the fusty product he took over into the most interesting and widely-read magazine in the country.

This greater freedom of speech which *Ogonek* represents is for most Soviets probably the most important change in the nearly two years since Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev became leader.

Political and economic change were promised by Mr. Gorbachev in his speech to the Communist Party central committee in Moscow a few days ago but in much of the press *glasnost* (openness) has actually arrived.

The change in the press is all the more important because the Soviet press, even when Mr. Leonid Brezhnev was leader, functioned as a limited forum for debate which took place in the newspapers because of the absence of any democratic institutions. People will take a grievance to the office of a newspaper but never think of going to the representative they have voted for in single-candidate elections.

Mr. Korotich points out that many ordinary Soviet citizens are still unwilling to take *glasnost* at face value, fearing a return of censorship and the rigidly enforced uniformity of the past. Few

want to be caught on the wrong side of the party line.

But "people become braver, more open, less afraid," he says, adding that the main objective is not to commit the same blunders which occurred after 1956, when Khrushchev denounced Stalin only to lose power to Brezhnev in 1964. He refers to an article in the current issue of *Ogonek* by Mr. Mikhail Shatrov, the playwright, comparing 1956 with 1985 and noting that Mr. Gorbachev's selection as Soviet leader was opposed.

In a scarcely-veiled attack on Mr. Victor Grishin, one of the Brezhnev old guard and for long party boss for Moscow who stood for the party leadership in 1985, Mr. Shatrov says there was a danger that the self-laudatory and mendacious slogans which used to appear in Moscow could have been on every wall in the Soviet Union.

Conflict within the ruling Politburo is never normally referred to in the Soviet press so Mr. Shatrov's article has been the talking point of Moscow over the past few days. The message is that the lost opportunity of 1956 to break with authoritarianism has not been lost. "History is giving us a second chance," concludes Mr. Shatrov.

Deeply-researched articles on corruption scandals also appear in the magazine. Earlier this year, it carried an expose on corruption in the organisation supplying food to Moscow. Its head was sent to jail for 15 years and his deputy for 12 years.

Writing such pieces has changed the working habits of Soviet journalists. "It is easier to publish sordid articles about great victories and new tractors which can't move but look beautiful," says Mr. Korotich, whose own career reflects the ups and downs of Soviet writers over the

past 20 years.

Trained as a surgeon, elected an official of the Writers' Union in 1965 when the liberalisation of the Khrushchev era was only just beginning to ebb, he was sacked in 1969 and worked as a freelance journalist editing small magazines before taking over *Ogonek* last year.

Mr. Korotich's magazine is important because it is symptomatic of the change in the Soviet media and arts over the past two years which is having a deep effect on the political system.

The Soviet Union is a society which relies heavily on the printed word.

In the battles between Mr. Gorbachev and the Brezhnev old guard, the press has played an important and at times critical role. In many, if not most, cases, the attack on political machines created by former retainers of Mr. Brezhnev in Moscow, Kazakhstan or the Ukraine has been led by local or national papers.

But the freedom of expression of new magazines like *Ogonek* plays another important function: it breaks down the nervousness and apathy of ordinary Soviet citizens that Mr. Gorbachev's calls for greater democracy are simply another campaign to which an end will eventually come as it did after Khrushchev's years in power. Confidence has been very slow to return and only in the past six months have those who believe *glasnost* is here to stay outnumbered the sceptics.

Mr. Korotich himself feels it is now or never. He says: "If we fail to rebuild now we'll lose everything. We must destroy all these stone and concrete people and do something more human, more democratic. That is the only way to live in the modern world" — *Financial Times* feature.

German firms told to train more in the Third World

By Karl Zawadzky

BONN (DaD) — Vocational training in the Third World must concentrate more on learning at work and less on book and college learning, says a German development policy expert.

If employers were to play a more active part in vocational training there would be a striking increase in the number of traineeships, not to mention a more practical orientation in what job trainees were taught.

This view was outlined, in an interview published in Bonn, by Professor Winfried Finger, development policy spokesman for the CDU/CSU parliamentary party. Trade and employers' associations must at the same time

be given a greater say in the training facilities they provided, as had for decades been the case in Germany.

Professor Finger is convinced that job training facilities as he envisages them in the developing world will lead to more training places and apprenticeships, to markedly lower costs in comparison with trades college training and to training courses more in keeping with the requirements of developing countries.

Further benefits as he sees them include "greater satisfaction of basic needs by a larger number of more highly-skilled trained men and women able to earn a living and feed themselves and their families" and "better

opportunities for domestic market development and long-term capital accumulation in the developing countries."

Professor Finger has called on subsidiaries of German firms in developing countries to train more staff. In suitable cases training facilities qualify for government grants from the Bonn development aid budget.

He appealed to German trade associations to forge stronger links with the developing world and boost the artisan trades there by sending out instructors and supplying machinery and equipment for training workshops. Many German chambers of trade already provide facilities of this kind.

Asia's food success offers hope for Africa

By Mort Rosenbaum
The Associated Press

ROME — World Food Council experts say Asia's spectacular success in growing food offers hope for the people of Africa.

The U.N. agency is encouraging Asian nations willing to help Africa as part of a campaign known in development jargon as "South-South Cooperation." It is designed to provide inexpensive help for Africa without lingering colonial overtones of Western aid.

"Asians can make huge difference with pocket money, hardly anything at all, and it is the type of aid most suited to Africa," said Alain Vidal-Naquet, senior adviser to the council.

South-South help should supplement North-South aid, Vidal-Naquet said. Developed countries can share the cost of technical teams to Africa from China, India and South East Asia.

He said the U.N. Development Programme already had agreed to provide funds. The European Economic Community and other multilateral donors were being asked to help.

The World Food Council accepted China's invitation to hold its mid-year meeting in Peking, and Asian-African cooperation is on the agenda. Africans and Asians are scheduled to exchange ideas in Harare, Zimbabwe before the Peking meeting.

Higher official prices caused Asian farmers to focus on improved agriculture techniques to increase food production. As African food production dropped from 1978 to 1984, China's rose by 4.9 per cent a year. India's grew almost as fast.

Over 30 years, Asian farmers increased their grain fields by only 25 per cent, but tripled their yields. Grain production went up 196 per cent. Farmers harvest up to three crops a year on the same land.

Africa's erratic rainfall, poor soils and vast distances limit the potential of a similar green revolution, agronomists say. But they add that much of Asia's experience is valuable to Africa.

"It's amazing what can be done," Vidal-Naquet said. "A group of Chinese went to build a stadium in Senegal during the drought. Within six months they were growing all their own food on a patch of ground in their compound."

Intensive farming depends heavily on simple irrigation, used for a thousand years in China, India and Mesopotamia. In Africa, the only such irrigation is along the Nile, with marginal impact.

Some Africans question the emphasis placed on irrigation techniques that have not proven successful for them.

At a past meeting of drought-stricken countries, Gambian Agriculture Minister Saikow Sabally argued:

"Rain-fed agriculture is cheap, and Western donors prefer it. But what is the point of putting all our scant resources into that if in the end, all we can do is pray for rain?"

But South-South cooperation could help Africans irrigate along the Niger, the Senegal, and smaller rivers with low-technology gravity systems and simple pumps that are easy to maintain, experts say.

Asians could design and supervise the intricate networks of dikes, dams and canals essential to catching run-off rains in semi-arid regions.

With techniques perfected in China and India, Africans could sink wells at a small fraction of what they now cost using imported equipment operated by Western contractors.

In 1982, Asia had 135 million hectares of irrigated farmland. Africa had 8 million. Since then, the Asian figure has risen. In Africa, as much irrigated land is ruined by salt, waterlogging or dropping river levels as is added by new irrigation.

China already is helping 44 African countries with 75 projects, geared toward direct assistance to peasants who work on an equal basis with Chinese technicians.

The Chinese grow rice in African wetlands, and build roads through the central mountains. In Mauritania, they advise on innovative methods to halt the advance of sand dunes.

Opening a World Food Council meeting in Guangzhou last year, Chinese authorities promised to increase aid in crop farming, fisheries, irrigation and low-technology energy, such as bio-gas.

They also promised to offer training in agriculture, research and management.

The results are not always as planned. In Rwanda recently, a reporter saw Chinese experts hard at work with shovels, but no sign of their Rwandan counterparts.

South-South cooperation is limited by capital. Most Asian countries are prepared to offer advice and assistance, but lack the money required for major development.

The World Food Council recommends using international aid to fund South-South projects.

The long-term plan is to scatter pilot projects around Africa to demonstrate new techniques and also initiate research into new strains and fertilizers adapted to Africa.

M.S. Swaminathan, an Indian who pioneers agriculture technology at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, says he is hopeful Africa can follow Asia's lead.

In Rome last year, he delivered a speech entitled, "Sustainable nutrition security for Africa: Lessons from India." He predicted that he will return in 10 years to speak on lessons for Asia from Africa.

Apple a day gets the OK

BOSTON (AP) — There may be some truth to the old adage that an apple a day keeps the doctor away, according to a new study of the diets of stroke victims.

Fruits and vegetables are a good source of potassium, and the research, released yesterday, suggests an extra serving daily may provide enough potassium significantly to reduce the odds of suffering a stroke.

The research was viewed sceptically by some experts who contend that it is too soon to conclude that potassium prevents strokes. But they agree that increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables is a healthy idea.

The researchers at the University of California, San Diego, found that people who got plenty of potassium were more likely than those with low consumption to escape strokes. Dr. Elizabeth Barrett Connor said. People following her advice should rearrange their diets so they do not take in more calories.

"We probably eat too much meat, so the obvious thing to have it (fruits and vegetables) replace is fatty foods," she said.

The study, conducted with Dr. Kay-Tee Khaw of Cambridge University, was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

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Annacone earns right to face McEnroe in tourney

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — American Paul Annacone breezed through his first-round match at the \$315,000 U.S. Indoor Championships, but he expects the going to get much tougher — and soon.

Annacone, unseeded and ranked 43rd, beat Glenn Layendecker in straight sets 6-4, 6-2 in one hour and two minutes, and will face fifth-seeded John McEnroe in Wednesday's second round. "You're always glad to get through the first round and advance, whoever you have to play (next)," said Annacone. "The winner of our match will probably have to play Johan Kriek."

Annacone, who dropped from 12th last year, attributes his sharp

play to his sports psychologist. "I'm having fun now," he said. "Last year there were too many ups and downs. I was hitting the ball great, but I wasn't tough mentally."

American Eliot Teltscher overcame shaky earlier play and several first-set foot faults and close line calls to down Mike Bauer 6-7 (7-5), 6-0, 6-2.

"Even with the bad calls, I had enough opportunities to win the set," said Teltscher, who faces

15th-seeded Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia on Wednesday. "This is probably as good a finish as I've had in a while."

Hard-serving American John Sadre also had an easy first round, beating Todd Witsken of the United States 6-3, 6-1. Sadre will face defending champion and fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert.

Top-seeded and second-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden will play against American Richey Reneberg, who Monday beat Derek Rostagno of the United States 6-7 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2.

Seven-time indoor champion Jimmy Connors, seeded second, will play his first match on Wednesday.

West Ham downs Sheffield United

LONDON (R) — West Ham bounced back from recent defeats by Tottenham and Oxford with a 4-0 win over Second Division Sheffield United in an English Football Association (F.A.) Cup fourth round tie Monday night.

The London side completed the fifth round line-up — it is away to Sheffield Wednesday — with two goals from Frank McAvennie and one apiece by Stewart Robson and Tony Gale.

McAvennie, who has struggled to emulate his prolific scoring feats of last season, struck in each half.

Robson was on target for the first time since his £700,000 (\$1 million) transfer from Arsenal on January 6.

Holder Aberdeen was eliminated from the Scottish Cup by Celtic.

Brian McClair scored the only goal, his 29th of the season, in the 15th minute of the third round, second replay.

President praises Conner for America's Cup return

WASHINGTON (AP) — Skipper Dennis Conner and his Stars and Stripes crew brought home the America's Cup and savoured the presidential praise missed when Conner lost the cup four years ago.

Conner and his crew brought the prized cup to the nation's capital Monday, where President Ronald Reagan ribbed the triumphant sailor as the first man to lose the trophy to another country and praised him as the first to win it back.

"For a few days, you enabled all of us to feel airborne," said Reagan, borrowing a sailor's term for the excitement of wind-filled sails.

Beaming and sporting the bushman's hat he won in a bet with Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, Reagan helped Conner hoist aloft the ornate silver prize as the 11-man crew and Vice President George Bush looked on.

Scottish soccer star plans 'Football for Africa' event

LONDON (AP) — A former Scottish international soccer star is trying to arrange a special match featuring 22 of the world's best players, including Argentina's Diego Maradona, to raise funds for African famine relief, it was revealed Tuesday.

Steve Archibald, who plays for Barcelona in Spain, told the British news agency, Press Association, that he is hoping to arrange the "Football for Africa" spectacular at Wembley Stadium in April.

Archibald said inspiration for the idea came from a live aid famine disaster programme he saw on television.

"I was really shocked by the condition of people in Africa and began to organize a football spectacular," he said. "I have written to many of the world's leading players."

Archibald said he had already had favourable replies from Maradona, who plays for Napoli in the Italian League, his two soccer-

playing brothers, and two other Argentines, Jorge Valdano and Osvaldo Ardiles.

He said others who have shown interest in playing include Bernd Schuster and Harald Schmacher of West Germany, Spain's Emilio Butragueno, Gary Lineker of England, Mark Hughes of Wales, and Danish strikers Michael Laudrup and Preben Elkjaer.

Archibald said he is hoping that two retired soccer stars, Brazil's Pele and George Best of Northern Ireland, might also play one half each of the match.

He said he was coming to Britain on Wednesday to discuss the venture with English soccer officials. "I have already had permission to stage such a match from FIFA," the international soccer body, Archibald added.

He said he was not sure what names the two teams would carry. "That could be decided later if we get the go-ahead" to play at Wembley, Archibald said.

Oxford rowing row settles down

LONDON (AP) — Crews were announced for the Oxford-Cambridge University Boat Race on March 28 but heated debate continued into the repercussions of a much-publicised walkout by four American members of the Oxford team.

"I am very satisfied that everything has been resolved. It has been a wearysome time but it is better to have problems early than late," said Donald MacDonald, president of the Oxford boat club, on Monday.

Last week, MacDonald was forced to make four changes in the Oxford eight following an American revolt over squad selection that involved a series of meetings, deadlines and recriminations and steered the 158-year-old race into its highest controversy of modern times.

The Americans, all short-term post graduate students, were originally named in the first-choice crew but resigned claiming one of their countrymen had been de-

liberately overlooked in favour of MacDonald.

The withdrawal of Jon Fish, Chris Huntington, Chris Penny and Dan Lyons, all world or Olympic medalists, means only one overseas oarsman, Peter Gish, from Greenwich, Connecticut, will now sit in the Oxford boat. MacDonald is the only "blue" having rowed last year.

The changes made by MacDonald brought the crew's average age down to 23 but they are still two years older per man than Cambridge, which has four hires, including American oarsman Jim Pew.

Describing the American walkout as "warring, depressing and thankless," Oxford head coach, Dan Topolski, was nevertheless confident of reversing last year's defeat, a loss that followed a decade of Oxford victories.

"Cambridge are very, very good but even without the Americans, we have a strong crew, probably as good as six of our last 12,"

Topolski said. His opposite number at Cambridge, Alan Inns, said his crew would treat Oxford with the greatest respect.

"We fancied our chances even with the Americans in the Oxford boat," he said. "We would have taken great delight in setting our sights on beating what Oxford claim could have been its fastest crew ever."

"But we will not be complacent. In a two-horse race, anything can happen."

Inns said he hoped this year's rebellion at Oxford would persuade his rivals to stop recruiting international post graduates for the race.

"For five years, we have been trying to talk to Oxford about this but they have been reluctant to discuss it," Inns told the AP.

"We are not advocating taking post graduates out altogether, we are just concerned about how they get in. I don't think anyone can say it is a happy accident that so many world and Olympic rowing champions went to Oxford this year."

"A number of people who could and should have got into Oxford have been stopped from doing so because of the stream of post graduates that appear in the race each year," Inns added.

Yugoslavia to host University Games

By Ante Drpic
Tanjug Features

BELGRADE — A total of 7,000 students and accompanying officials from 115 countries throughout the world will participate in the 14th University Games, which will be held from July 8 to 19 in Zagreb.

Participation in the games has to date been announced by 5,035 student sportsmen and women who will compete in 12 disciplines — athletics, basketball, fencing, football, gymnastics, swimming, diving, water polo, tennis, volleyball, rowing and canoeing.

Work on games and accommodation facilities are being brought to an end, and it is certain that virtually all the facilities will be complete by the end of this year.

The "University Games 87" project comprises two separate but linked programmes — the sports programme and the programme for the preparations of the city of Zagreb.

The sports programme comprises the adaptation, reconstruction and construction of

sports and accommodation facilities essential for the competitions in the 12 disciplines from the Summer Olympic programme and the provision of accommodation for a record number of participants.

The programme for the preparation of the city of Zagreb includes the completion of a telecommunications and computer system, so vital for the successful holding of the games. It also comprises, however, the development of municipal and traffic infrastructure and hotels and other facilities of importance for the organisation of life in the city.

Works are underway on 25 buildings of cultural significance and 15 hotels and catering facilities, while some one hundred city facades are being refurbished and new bus lanes completed.

Furthermore Zagreb Airport is being reconstructed and 11 new roads constructed.

The participants at the University Games will be accommodated in two students' halls of residence, which, after adaptation, will be able to host high "B" category. The Stjepan Radic hall of residence will accommodate 2,450 visiting students while the Village of Flowers will provide accommodation for some 3,550.

These two halls of residence provide excellent conditions for the accommodation of the participants (students, team leaders, trainers, doctors) and will also provide restaurant and entertainment facilities. The referees and judges, who, according to the rules are to be

found in all the teams, will be accommodated in the reconstructed hotel Panorama near the Olympic Village.

The organisers have provided 42 sports halls, three athletics facilities, five swimming pools, one water course, 25 football grounds and four tennis complexes with 44 courts. These terrains will be the site for 612 competitions and 91 individual programmes in 141 disciplines and will also see 3,520 training sessions. The precise timetable for these events has been laid down.

Let us note furthermore that all the preconditions have been created for the normal work of doping control, which will handle 500 samples using the most contemporary methods.

During the competitions there will be regular FISU (International Federation of University Sports) — CESU (European Conference of University Sports) conferences in the hotel Intercontinental, which, together with the other high-category Zagreb hotel Esplanade will provide accommodation for high-ranking FISU officials, members of the International Olympic Committee, diplomatic personnel and other high-ranking guests.

Representatives of the fourth estate — press, radio and television journalists and technicians — will be accommodated in the hotels Dubrovnik, Laguna, and International. Between 2,000 and 2,500 journalists from throughout the world are expected to cover the University Games.

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Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5255/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3343/48	Canadian dollar
	1.8168/78	West German marks
	2.0495/0505	Dutch guilders
	1.5320/30	Swiss francs
	37.60/65	Belgian francs
	6.0475/0525	French francs
	1292/1293	Italian lire
	152.95/153.05	Japanese yen
	6.4875/4925	Swedish crowns
	7.0050/0100	Norwegian crowns
	6.8675/8725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	404.20/404.70	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares remained close to the day's lows in late business reflecting Monday's lower showing on Wall Street and Tuesday's easier start there. By 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was down 16.8 to 1,893.9 after an earlier low of 1,890.5.

Tuesday's retreat was largely on profit-taking after the record breaking run of recent sessions, with dealers saying the market remains well supported ahead of the U.K. budget.

Selling on Tuesday was fairly restrained, with investors consolidating holdings ahead of the March 17 budget, which is anticipated to bring about cuts in personal income tax. This in turn is tipped to trigger increased consumer spending.

Dealers said the market had been due for a correction after the run of gains which has lifted the FTSE 100 index from around 1,681 since the beginning of the year.

However, they added that Monday saw little sustained selling and there were few factors in the decline to suggest underlying market fundamentals had shifted toward a lower trend.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today finds you able to get some new ideas for putting across the various basic plans that are important to you. Sit back and analyze your most comprehensive goals.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Put the finishing touches on whatever plan you are working on. Carry through with it and analyze the results.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Improve your communications in some way. Make the right contacts and be happy with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Solve that monetary problem wisely. Get your health improved. Take time to devise a better budget.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Consider your greatest wish of a personal nature and go after it with courage and conviction.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Concentrate on private wishes and know how best to gain them. Forget expensive amusements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): You now understand how to gain whatever it is you want the most. Use tact in dealing with your family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Steer clear of a strange encounter. Plan how to gain the aid of those who can help you attain wildly aims.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Plan a new course that can make your projects work out more successfully. Add to your present activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Rely more on experts since your ideas are not up to date. Do something for your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Bring your finest talents to the attention of bigwigs. Forget that problematical affair for now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Plan how to get your activities to work out more satisfactorily. Avoid one who is a schemer.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Plan how to get your fine ideas across to others. Try to build up your health in some way.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be a very good student and use fine judgment in dealing with others, so give as fine an education as you can since your progeny will need this in order to overcome the vicissitudes of living that are bound to come up during this successful lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

- 1 Lip
- 5 Charley dog
- 9 Vacation reading
- 14 Alongside of
- 15 "One small — for man"
- 16 End of mesh
- 17 Dave's song
- 18 Sharpen
- 19 Push forward
- 20 Lucille's vacation vehicle
- 23 Untouched by evil
- 24 Singleton
- 25 "— goes by"
- 26 Success
- 30 Expressed
- 34 Camp
- 35 Card game
- 36 Measure of music
- 37 Words on a postcard
- 41 Postcard
- 42 Took advantage of
- 43 Fizz beer
- 44 Recede
- 46 Spread lay
- 47 Composed verse
- 48 Grail
- 49 "Hail — qui mal"
- 51 Voyager's way
- 52 Old song
- 53 Menu
- 54 Beguiling at
- 55 Short jacket
- 56 Home-racing meeting
- 57 Accept
- 58 Mile
- 59 Hestiated
- 60 "Daring Under the —"

DOWN

- 1 Used the pool
- 2 Comely to
- 3 Ade
- 4 Fairly keen
- 5 On land
- 6 Far scar
- 7 Mind
- 8 Copies
- 9 Offspring
- 10 Surt's py
- 11 Body of Kaffir
- 12 Pest or coal
- 13 of Capt
- 14 Delusions
- 15 Drive
- 16 Egyptian dem
- 17 — Agnew
- 18 27. 10. epic poet
- 19 Turned left
- 20 Angered
- 21 Neutered word
- 22 Analyze sentence
- 23 Comered
- 24 Sole
- 25 — lunch (more signs)
- 26 Moral
- 27 —, you with the stars...
- 28 Pay homage
- 29 Took lodgings
- 30 Akka
- 31 Feed a fire
- 32 Word to tabby
- 33 Flagellate
- 34 Kill whale
- 35 Melrose times: abbr.
- 36 Springs
- 37 Type: abbr.
- 38 Standard
- 39 Anecdote collections

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. LIP, 5. CHARLEY, 9. VACATION, 14. ALONGSIDE, 15. ONE SMALL, 16. END OF MESH, 17. DAVE'S SONG, 18. SHARPEN, 19. PUSH FORWARD, 20. LUCILLE'S VACATION VEHICLE, 23. UNTouched BY EVIL, 24. SINGLETON, 25. "— GOES BY", 26. SUCCESS, 30. EXPRESSED, 34. CAMP, 35. CARD GAME, 36. MEASURE OF MUSIC, 37. WORDS ON A POSTCARD, 41. POSTCARD, 42. TOOK ADVANTAGE OF, 43. FIZZ BEER, 44. RECEDE, 46. SPREAD LAY, 47. COMPOSED VERSE, 48. GRAIL, 49. "HAIR — QUI MAL", 51. VOYAGER'S WAY, 52. OLD SONG, 53. MENU, 54. BEGUILING AT, 55. SHORT JACKET, 56. HOME-RACING MEETING, 57. ACCEPT, 58. MILE, 59. HESTIATED, 60. "DARING UNDER THE —".

DOWN: 1. USED THE POOL, 2. COMELY TO, 3. ADE, 4. FAIRLY KEEN, 5. ON LAND, 6. FAR SCAR, 7. MIND, 8. COPIES, 9. OFFSPRING, 10. SURT'S PY, 11. BODY OF KAFFIR, 12. PEST OR COAL, 13. OF CAPT, 14. DELUSIONS, 15. DRIVE, 16. EGYPTIAN DEM, 17. — AGNEW, 18. 27. 10. EPIC POET, 19. TURNED LEFT, 20. ANGERED, 21. NEUTERED WORD, 22. ANALYZE SENTENCE, 23. COMERED, 24. SOLE, 25. — LUNCH (MORE SIGNS), 26. MORAL, 27. —, YOU WITH THE STARS..., 28. PAY HOMAGE, 29. TOOK LODGINGS, 30. AKKA, 31. FEED A FIRE, 32. WORD TO TABBY, 33. FLAGELLATE, 34. KILL WHALE, 35. MELROSE TIMES: ABBR., 36. SPRINGS, 37. TYPE: ABBR., 38. STANDARD, 39. ANECDOTE COLLECTIONS.

World Bank offers Arabs more opportunities

BAHRAIN (R) — The World Bank Monday urged businessmen in Arab countries to step up their participation in bank-funded projects.

World Bank representative, Mr. Ezzedin Shamsedin, told Bahraini businessmen and industrialists the benefits gained by Arab countries from World Bank membership had been relatively small.

"Arab countries' share in World Bank capital is about eight per cent but their involvement in consultancy and contracts awarded through bank projects is nowhere near that amount," he told Reuters.

"The time has come for Arab countries to gain more exposure to — and knowledge of — opportunities within the World Bank to

able through the bank's international market to suppliers, contractors and consulting firms in the region.

"The market has better opportunities than is generally known, and we urge people to compete more than they are," he said.

World Bank plans to double lending for health care projects

In Nairobi, World Bank President Barber Conable said the bank planned to double its annual lending for population, health and nutrition projects to \$500 million by 1990.

Mr. Conable, speaking at an international conference on safe motherhood in Nairobi said the credit, about twice the 1984/85

level, would support projects in 50 mainly developing countries.

Mr. Conable also announced that bank had set up a safe motherhood fund to improve health care for pregnant women and had provided an initial \$1 million of the \$5 million budget. He hoped other donors would contribute to the fund.

Mr. Conable said the bank was keen on maternal health care because women were the backbone of development, especially in the Third World.

"Women's health is basic to women's advancement in all fields. A mother's health is the bulwark and the foundation of social and community health ... maternal health care is an investment in development," Mr. Conable said.

The four-day conference is



Barber Conable seeking ways to improve primary health care for women, especially in the Third World and reduce deaths arising from pregnancy and childbirth, estimated by WHO at 500,000 a year.

Arab monetary officials discuss ways to unify GCC currencies

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Arab monetary officials opened talks Tuesday which banking sources said would probably include proposals for a unified currency framework like the European Monetary System.

Kuwait's Central Bank Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah was chairing the three-day meeting of officials from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"The meeting looks like a forum to develop the idea of a joint exchange rate," one banking source said. Central bank officials could not be reached for details of the agenda.

In addition to Kuwait, the GCC groups Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

GCC central bank chiefs agreed at a meeting in the UAE

two weeks ago on the principle of a joint exchange rate system.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Quwaiz, the GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, said then the currencies would be allowed to fluctuate within a set band against each other.

Technical experts were expected to decide at the Kuwait meeting on a model best suited to the joint needs of GCC states, which now use three different ways to determine their exchange rates.

Banking sources said the choice of a common peg against which to align the currencies appeared to be a major issue still to be resolved.

Oman's rial has been pegged officially to the dollar since 1973. Kuwait's dinar is linked to a trade-weighted basket of currencies, while the other four states have a formal link to the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Right (SDR).

This is calculated against a basket made up of the dollar, West German mark, French franc, Japanese yen and British pound.

Regional economists have narrowed the choice of a common peg down to the dollar, on which GCC states are heavily reliant because most international oil sales are denominated in the U.S. currency, the SDR or a currencies basket tailored to Gulf trade.

Bankers noted that the five countries whose currencies are used to determine the SDR all have major trade links with GCC states.

The choice of the SDR has been touted as the line of least resistance as this would circumvent political bargaining on a hybrid basket of currencies or a decision to sever the link with the dollar.

Singapore restricts publication of Asian Wall Street Journal

SINGAPORE (AP) — The government Monday ordered the circulation of the Asian Wall Street Journal limited to 400 copies a day starting Feb. 16 because of the newspaper's refusal to publish an official response to an article.

The financial paper, owned by Dow Jones Publishing Co. (Asia) Inc., is edited in Hong Kong and printed there and in Singapore. It has been circulating more than 5,000 copies a day in Singapore.

Mr. Lee Seng Gai of the ministry of communications and information notified editor and publisher Fred Zimmerman of the order published in a government gazette. It declared the journal "a foreign newspaper engaging in the domestic politics of Singapore."

The journal is also required to get official approval before circulating the paper through a distributor cleared by the government.

A statement from the ministry cited a front-page story by Singapore correspondent, Mr. Stephen Duthie, in the Dec. 12-13 edition that, the government asserted, "criticized the formation of SES-DAQ (Stock Exchange of Singapore Dealing and Automated Quotation System), and cast doubts on the motives of the Singapore government in setting it up."

The release said Mr. Duthie's report gave the impression that SESDAQ "was being foisted on the Singapore financial scene by the government, in order to preside over the disposal of dud companies to its own citizens."

An official of the monetary authority of Singapore complained to the newspaper in two letters and asked that they and Mr. Zimmerman's two replies be printed in full, the release said.

In a statement issued in Hong Kong before the government release was distributed, Mr. Zimmerman said the journal was considering a legal challenge to the restriction.

"Singapore's banning of the Asian Wall Street Journal is unreasonable, unwarranted and self-defeating," Mr. Zimmerman said in the statement. "It is ironic that this comes at a time when Singapore is seeking to become a major financial as well as printing centre in South East Asia."

Lebanese lira hits 99 to dollar

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound plunged to a new low against the U.S. dollar Tuesday against a background of continued domestic and international tension, dealers said.

The pound closed at 99.00/99.30 to the dollar, compared with 97.00/98.00 on Saturday, the previous day of trading.

Dealers attributed the rapid decline in the international value of the once sturdy currency to a U.S. navy alert in the eastern Mediterranean and continued uncertainty over the plight of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

"In addition to concern over Lebanon's internal conflict, there is concern over American threats and particularly recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz," one dealer said.

The pound's collapse has sent Lebanon's state deficit soaring, import costs have risen and the rate of inflation has rocketed. The pound was worth 18 to the dollar in January last year.

Lebanon's General Labour Federation, which groups local trade unions, estimates that consumer prices rose 162.2 per cent in the 12 months ended Dec. 31.

Bahrain emphasises modern financial reporting to boost investor confidence

BAHRAIN (R) — Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Kassem called Tuesday for modern accounting standards to boost investor confidence on Bahrain as a financial centre.

Mr. Kassem told a conference on accounting an auditing there could be no room for complacency, particularly at a time when Bahrain was about to open its first stock exchange.

"The much publicised recent difficulties of some of the major

international financial institutions serve as a warning that we cannot be complacent with the situation that is virtually at a crisis point," he said.

"It is imperative that we should make every effort to evolve laws and regulations that are more attuned to modern business practices and establish a set of generally accepted financial reporting and disclosure standards that will give shareholders and investors more confidence in our financial

and public institutions," Mr. Kassem added.

Bahrain's cabinet has passed legislation enabling the setting up of the island's first stock exchange, but the final go-ahead is still awaiting an Emiri decree.

Bahrain, a major Middle East financial centre and home to about 170 banks, is also expanding its role in capital markets. In December, it started to issue treasury bills — a form of short-term government debt.

Low trade figures worry Russians

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet magazine, signalling top-level concern at a slump in Moscow's foreign currency earnings, called Tuesday for higher-quality Soviet industrial exports and better use of imported Western equipment.

The weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta also accused Western countries of shutting Soviet industrial goods out of their markets by erecting discriminatory tariffs and political barriers to trade.

The article painted a gloomy picture of Soviet trade last year, saying turnover fell by eight per cent in current world prices to 130 billion roubles (\$200 billion) from 141.6 billion roubles (\$220 billion) in 1985.

The magazine made clear that last year's collapse in world oil prices was the chief factor behind the contraction in trade. Until the price fall, Moscow earned about 80 per cent of its hard currency from oil and natural gas sales to the West.

The Soviet Union has not yet published a breakdown of its trade with Western countries for the whole of 1986 but in the first nine months of last year, it ran a deficit with the West of 2.50 billion roubles (\$3.85 billion).

Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta said the Soviet Union's foreign trade was particularly susceptible to fluctuations in world prices for raw materials because sales of industrial goods formed only a small part of its exports to the West.

"This component is small above all because the capitalist countries stubbornly protect their

markets from Soviet machinery and technical products with discriminatory tariffs and trade and political barriers," the magazine said.

"The component is also small because the best home-made scientific and technical achievements are not properly reflected in it ... Our task is to ensure that the share of machinery and equipment grows more substantially, so that our exports generally would depend less on market forces."

Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta demanded "not only better quality, a higher technical level of goods designed for export and more competitiveness but the strictest discipline in spending foreign currency and in using imported goods."

"We could cite the fact that, through the fault of a number of ministry branches, foreign trade bodies and production plants in our country, a significant amount of unassembled imported equipment is lying around like a dead weight," it noted.

Western economists said last

year's lower hard-currency earnings had placed a question mark over the Soviet leadership's drive to rejuvenate the economy by limiting the country's imports of advanced equipment.

In the period January to September last year, Western imports fell to 12.1 billion roubles (\$18.6 billion) from 14.4 billion roubles (\$22.2 billion) in the same period of 1985. Exports to the West fell to 9.6 billion roubles (\$14.5 billion) from 13.4 billion roubles (\$20.6 billion).

Western economists said the Soviet Union had covered the deficit partly by increasing gold sales and partly by borrowing more on Western credit markets. Arms sales are another valuable source of income, although their exact value is unknown.

The Western economists said the Soviet Union had gained some respite because of a better-than-usual grain harvest last year, which permitted lower grain imports and an upturn in the world price for oil, now around \$18 a barrel.

World's beef output may drop

GENEVA (R) — World beef and veal output is expected to fall by about 1.5 per cent in 1987, bringing respite from years of overproduction and prospects of a firmer export market, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade said Tuesday.

The Geneva-based world trade body predicted lower output by the United States, the European Community, Canada, Australia, Argentina and Uruguay. Beef and veal consumption was also expected to drop this year, mainly because less would be eaten in the United States (down five per cent) and Canada (three per cent). But overall 1987 was seen as bringing "a respite from years of overproduction." World output was predicted at about 42 million tonnes.

Peanuts



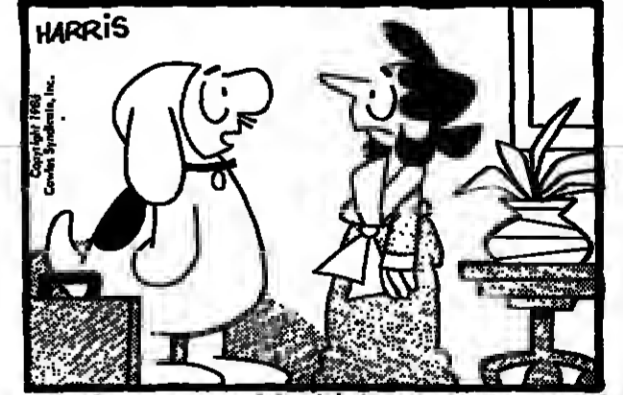
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"My boss says I have to wear this until I can remember that the business world is dog eat dog."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOEBT

ROYAF

NEPAHP

PHISAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURIO FAMED MANAGE PAROLE

Answer: Something a lot of women are taken in by— A GIRDLE

Colombo troops advance against Tamil guerrillas

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces advanced on all fronts Tuesday against guerrillas fighting for an independent Tamil homeland, a government statement said.

The statement said rebels were fleeing into jungles as troops searched villages, occupied guerrilla hideouts, destroyed bunkers and seized weapons on the sixth day of an offensive.

It said security forces were throwing cordons around jungles and pursuing guerrillas into the tangled undergrowth. The operation covers about a fifth of the island claimed by Tamils as their homeland. It stretches from Mannar in the north west to the northern strongholds Jaffna and Kilinochchi and Trincomalee district in the east, the statement added.

Batticaloa and Ampara districts, also in the east, were cleared of rebels last week.

In Mannar, where troops advanced Monday with support from the air force, security forces captured 50 suspected rebels believed from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE is the most powerful of the five main guerrilla groups.

At least 114 troops, rebels and civilians have died in fighting since the beginning of this month, according to government figures. More than 5,000 people have died since widespread ethnic vio-

lence flared on the island in July 1983.

Tamils, who form 13 per cent of the island's 15 million people, want a separate state in the north and east where most of them live. They accuse the Sinhalese-dominated government of discriminating against them in language, education, employment and land settlement.

The government has offered to redress their grievances by granting autonomy to Tamil areas through a system of elected provincial councils.

While most Tamil groups are prepared to consider the proposal as a basis for negotiation, the LTTE opposes it. The government said among the areas recaptured Monday were a strategic junction at Uliyankulam and the jungles of Madhu where a Catholic shrine attracted thousands of pilgrims before it became a centre of guerrilla activity.

The government said the Catholic Bishop of Mannar, Thomas Savundranayagam, accompanied by General Cyril Ranatunga, the commander of security forces and Brigadier Denzil Kobekaduwa, who directed the op-

erations, went to the Madhu Church Monday after troops cleared the area.

In a separate operation Monday, the security forces made further advances in Kilinochchi in the north and captured an LTTE stronghold at Tunnattai.

3,000 people detained

In a separate development Sri Lanka has detained about 3,000 people in the past two days to head off communal riots following the massacre of 29 villagers by Tamil separatists, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

He said most people detained were trouble-makers who might use the killings to stir up the majority Sinhalese community against minority Tamils.

"All over the island, we can safely say about 3,000 have been detained. We've given them warnings and in two to three weeks, once the situation has eased, we'll release them," the spokesman told Reuters.

Police have powers to detain anyone up to 18 months without trial under the four-year-old prevention of terrorism act to cope with the Tamil war.

The toll in Saturday's massacre at Arantalawa in the eastern district of Ampara rose to 29 when a man died in hospital.

Rivalries flare at European talks with C. America

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — A bitter row between Central American nations marred the first day of a regional peace meeting and a senior European Community official called for greater efforts at cooperation.

Community Council President and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, addressing the first working session Monday, urged frank and direct dialogue between the various warring factions in the five Central American states.

"If this conference reinforces the political determination of the participants... it will have served the cause of peace," he said. "If not, we will, sadly, have reason to question the use of this exercise."

The Community, meeting here with delegates from Central American countries and the Contadora peace-seeking group, began efforts to soothe regional tension through economic aid in 1984.

Long-standing enmity between Managua and its neighbours flared when Nicaragua objected to El Salvador speaking on behalf of Central America at the opening ceremony.

To avoid a diplomatic scene, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta stayed away but later called a news conference to denounce what he called Nicaragua's "propaganda game."

He accused the Sandinistas of being the root of Central America's problems, of not wanting peace in the region and of trying to destabilise El Salvador.

"This incident at the ceremony shows once again that the real lack of political will for peace lies with them," he said.

Tension between Soviet-backed Nicaragua and its pro-U.S. neighbours has been a dominant feature of Central American politics since the Sandinistas took control in 1979.

Contra rebel attacks on Nicaragua from bases along with borders of Honduras and Costa Rica have led to frequent clashes between Managua and its two neighbours.

El Salvador shares Washington's view that the Sandinistas are bent on exporting revolution with help of the Soviet Union and Cuba and accuses leftist Nicaragua of supporting the rebels against which it has been fighting a seven-year civil war.

Peking signs South Pacific nuclear treaty

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — China on Tuesday signed the South Pacific nuclear free zone treaty, joining the Soviet Union as the only nuclear powers to pledge they will not test or use nuclear weapons in the region.

Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Ji Chaozhu, signed two of the treaty's three protocols at the Suva headquarters of the South Pacific Bureau for economic cooperation. The bureau oversees the 13-nation South Pacific Forum, which created the treaty.

"The Chinese government believes that to make the South Pacific a real nuclear free zone, those states in possession of large nuclear arsenals have a special responsibility," Mr. Ji said. "China will scrupulously abide by its obligations."

Tuesday's ceremony came five days after the United States announced it would not sign the treaty because it would compromise "global security interests and responsibilities."

France, which tests nuclear devices in the South Pacific near French Polynesia, has refused to sign the treaty. Britain has yet to announce its decision.

China and the Soviet Union have signed the same two protocols — pledging not to test, use or threaten to use nuclear devices in the region. The other protocol applies only to countries with possessions in the South Pacific.

The Soviet ambassador signed the protocols in December, four days after the treaty came into effect.

In his speech, Mr. Ji said China has the right to reconsider its commitment. He said that would happen if "other nuclear weapon states or the contracting parties to the treaty take any action in gross violation of the treaty and its attached protocols, thus changing the status of the nuclear free zone and endangering the security interests of China."

23 miners survive, 2 die in Chinese mine disaster

PEKING (AP) — Twenty-three miners were rescued last month after surviving for almost three days in a near-airless pocket of a flooded coal mine in China's central Anhui province, the China Daily reported Tuesday.

Two workers died in the mine disaster, said the China Daily, in an unusual full-page chronicle of the New Year's Day rescue mission carried out by navy divers.

It said the miners were trapped about 100 metres underground by a flood of icy waters on the morning of Dec. 29 at the 1,000-year-old Laogu Hill Mine in Xiaoxian county. Some dangled from roof beams for several hours before making their way through chest-high water to a shelter.

At 3:40 a.m. the following day, they finally made telephone contact with the surface, saying "all're here ... lack of oxygen."

Thousands of rescuers, working in a hizzard, failed to connect with a ventilation hole drilled from the surface, and three pumps fixed to the mine's ancient pit shafts could move only 200 square metres of water an hour.

An urgent cable was sent to the navy's East China Sea fleet, which dispatched a rescue team of 14 officers and divers, but initial attempts to enter the cave failed because the water was too cold for light diving suits and scuba gear.

The report said Liu Rongchuan, chief diving coach of the East China Sea Fleet, on Dec. 31 entered the shaft in 79-kilogramme suit, dragging a 200-metre ventilation tube and carrying chocolate and fruit juice. It took him three hours to reach the miners, who had been drinking the filthy water and eating paper.

Gunmen flee after freeing Marseille bank hostages

MARSEILLE, France (R) — Twenty-three hostages held by seven armed men in a Marseille bank were freed but the gunmen fled through a basement exit, a police spokesman said.

The hostages — customers and bank staff — were held at gunpoint by the would-be robbers who burst into a branch of the Marseille Savings Bank in the centre of this Mediterranean port city shortly after it opened this morning.

The spokesman said none of the hostages was injured. The gunmen fled through underground passages, he said, and police were searching for them in the area.

A senior police officer told a news conference Monday afternoon that he had talked with the gang leader, who said he was willing to negotiate for release of the hostages.

Hurricane death toll reaches 45 in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — Authorities on Tuesday found the bodies of four people were found in the storm's aftermath. However, they said 41 people were on the capsized ferries and were presumed drowned after reconnaissance flight to outlying islands spotted the wrecks of the Zulu Astronaut and Fetukai.

James Batley, the deputy high commissioner, said search efforts for possible survivors had been abandoned.

He told the Australian Associated Press that a French helicopter spotted the wrecks on Tuesday.

Vanuatu, about 1,920 kilometres north east of Australia, has a population of about 160,000. The island nation, formerly known as the New Hebrides, was jointly ruled by France and Britain until gaining independence in 1980.

Authorities had no way of knowing the effects of the storm on remote islands in the area because communications systems were knocked out. The government used New Zealand and local aircraft to gather information from the southern islands.

Coroner: Liberace's death caused by AIDS

INDIO, California (R) — A California coroner has disclosed that entertainer Liberace died of a form of pneumonia caused by AIDS and said there had been an attempted cover up.

Coroner Raymond Carrillo told reporters Monday, the flamboyant showman, who died in Palm Springs last Wednesday aged 67, could have been suffering from the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome for months or years.

A spokeswoman for Liberace said last week the pianist died of cardiac arrest brought on by a form of brain damage.

But Carrillo, who had Liberace's embalmed body brought back from a cemetery so he could perform a post mortem, said the announced cause of death had not made sense.

Asked if he believed there was an attempt to evade a law under which contagious diseases have to be reported to state authorities, Carrillo replied:

"It is my firm belief that someone along the line wanted to pull a fast one."

He said the doctor who pronounced the cause of death — Liberace's personal physician Dr. Ronald Daniels — and the mortuary concerned would be reported to the appropriate county authorities.

"But there will be no criminal prosecution at this time," he added.

Carrillo said heart problems were a contributing factor to Liberace's death and there was calcium on the heart valves but

this was not the cause of death. Among those at high risk from AIDS are homosexuals and Liberace and his manager of 36 years, Seymour Heller, always firmly denied the entertainer fell in this category.

But in October, 1982, his former chauffeur and secretary, Scott Thorson, sued the entertainer for \$113 million, claiming a six-year "sexual, emotional and business" agreement was breached when four men evicted him from the home he shared with the entertainer.

According to court documents, Liberace, who never married, settled the lawsuit for \$95,000.

The entertainer, born Wladziu but known to friends as Lee, died in his Spanish-style home with beautiful music playing in the background, a publicity agent said.

Within two hours, undertakers took away his gaudy body for embalming, making blood tests impossible.

Assistants to Carrillo, whose jurisdiction includes Palm Springs, picked up the body at a Los Angeles cemetery the day before it was due to be buried and took it back 160 kilometres to Riverside for a post-mortem.

Liberace's medical records were subpoenaed and Carrillo said on Saturday blood tests taken last month showed Liberace had been exposed to the AIDS virus.

His body was buried the same day in his family tomb at Forest Lawn Cemetery in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles,

alongside those of his brother George and his mother Frances. "In layman's terms, Liberace died on an opportunistic disease caused by AIDS," Carrillo said.

Opportunistic diseases occur when a person's lack of immunity is destroyed, as with AIDS.

Carrillo said Liberace had a rare form of pneumonia and told reporters the county health department would try to contact people who had had contact with him.

He said the body of someone who had died with a contagious disease should not have left the county without permission. The first he knew the body had been taken to Los Angeles from the county in which Palm Springs fell was last Friday.

"The mortuary authorities did not notify the coroner's office they were taking the body out of the county," Carrillo said.

Officials of the Eisenhower Medical Centre, where Liberace spent three days last month before going home to die, said the centre had acted properly.

Once subpoenas were served, the centre handed over all the information it had promptly and quickly, they said.

Liberace slipped into a coma last Tuesday after he was given last rites by a Catholic priest. He never regained consciousness.

At a memorial service last Friday a telegram from President Reagan was read. "Lee was a gifted musician who truly earned the title of superstar," Mr. Reagan said.

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Looters confess after gallows treatment

TEHRAN (R) — Four men confessed to looting bombed buildings after they were strung up by their hands on a public gallows in the north western Iranian city of Urmia, Kayhan newspaper has reported. It quoted city officials as saying the men were hung on the gallows "to make them known to the people and as their preliminary punishment." The officials said 26 thieves had been arrested in Urmia for stealing from houses damaged by Iraqi air raids. The deputy commander of the "Basij," Iran's paramilitary force, told Ettelaat newspaper last week that robbers taking advantage of the situation in cities after air raids would receive maximum punishment.

Marquess fined for plowing Roman site

WARWICK, England (AP) — The Marquess of Hertford was fined £10,000 (\$15,000) for plowing up a historic Roman ruin. Hertford told the judge, "I'll send you a check." Hertford admitted violating Britain's ancient monuments and archaeology act by damaging the remains of the Roman settlement on his 3,000-acre (1,200-hectare) farming estate near Stratford-upon-Avon in central England in July 1985. Prosecutor Coleman Treacy told the court that the site was recognised as a first-century Roman settlement and had not been plowed for hundreds of years. After it was plowed by the hereditary nobleman's staff, people with metal detectors arrived looking for Roman coins. About 1,000 pieces of glass and pottery were found, but no coins, Treacy said. Hertford told the court that he had understood from the Department of the Environment that "normal farming activities, and plowing is the most normal one can think of, were all right."

Britain logs biggest rise in AIDS

LONDON (R) — Britain reported its biggest monthly increase in AIDS cases and Social Services Minister Norman Fowler warned that the worst was yet to come. Government figures showed that 686 cases of people suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome were reported to the end of January, including 355 deaths. This represented an increase of 76 over the total at the end of December. Mr. Fowler, who recently visited AIDS victims in a San Francisco Hospice during a trip to see how U.S. sufferers are treated, told reporters: "This is the biggest monthly increase in AIDS cases we have so far experienced. The situation will get worse before it can get better," he added. Last month the first ward specifically for AIDS victims was opened at London's Middlesex Hospital. The release of the latest figures coincided with a call from a leading researcher for more government cash and a cut in delays in testing AIDS vaccines in humans. Professor Avron Mitchinson, a leading immunologist researching AIDS at London's University College, warned that too much time was being spent on testing vaccines on animals. "It is time to move into man. Otherwise, you are subjecting the population to a grave and unnecessary risk," he told a news conference.

5 charged with robbing museum

LONDON (AP) — Five men were charged with conspiring to rob a London museum, the scene of a shootout late Friday in which police killed one man. A police spokesman fatally wounded Dennis Bergin, 26, when a stakeout team surprised would-be thieves inside the house of 18th century architect Sir John Soane, now a museum filled with art treasures in London's Holborn district. The accused, who included Bergin's 23-year-old brother, George, were also charged with being armed with a sawed-off shotgun intending to commit robbery. They were detained in police custody and did not apply for bail. An internal police inquiry is under way into the shooting of Dennis Bergin, who died after emergency surgery. An alleged accomplice was also shot by police and was reported in "comfortable" condition in a hospital. Police have said no shots were fired by Dennis Bergin. The museum's contents include masterpieces by William Hogarth, J.M.W. Turner, Antonio Canaletto and Sir Joshua Reynolds, as well as antique furniture and Greek, Roman and Egyptian art objects.

AIDS blood flushed into sewers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Undertakers who drain blood from AIDS victims during the embalming process flush blood into the sewer system, but health officials say there is no evidence the procedure poses a public danger. The question arose after the death of entertainer Liberace, whose body showed evidence of the virus that causes the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Dick Fisher, a spokesman for the Forest Lawn Memorial Parks, said that Liberace's body was embalmed and his blood disposed of as if the entertainer did not have AIDS. During embalming, blood is drained from the body and it is routinely disposed of in the public sewer system, undertakers said. "When the body is embalmed, formaldehyde is pumped into the blood. After embalming, the blood is removed and poured down the drain," said Dick Gray of the After Care Mortuary in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles. Tom Leonard, a public health adviser with the AIDS programme of the National Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, said this practice apparently poses no danger, because formaldehyde would kill the AIDS virus.

Child slavery ring uncovered

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Modern-day slave traders are taking young children in south eastern Nigeria's Cross River state to work on plantations or as household servants, the independent Guardian newspaper has reported. In a special investigative report, the Guardian said children between the ages of five and 15 in the Cross River town of Ogoja had been lured, coerced or kidnapped and taken in trucks to south western Ogun state. There, the strongest were chosen to work in cocoa plantations while the others were sent to Ibadan or Lagos to work as household servants. Community leaders in Ogoja told the newspaper more than 2,000 children had been taken away without their parents' knowledge or consent. Primary school enrollment and local agricultural output had been affected by the departures. The newspaper said in some cases recruiters had offered parents tobacco or \$10 as compensation for their children being taken to work elsewhere. In other cases the children were taken away without their parents' knowledge. Some children willingly left their families, walking up to 25 kilometres to a meeting point where they were taken away on bicycles or motorcycles, the paper said. Children recruited to work in Lagos earn about eight to \$10 in monthly wages, the Guardian reported.

China forms society for sex research

PEKING (AP) — China has organised its first society for research on sexual relations, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. Xinhua said the society in the northern province of Heilongjiang has 177 members and will hold discussions on sex-related issues, provide sex education to the public and offer counselling services. The report quoted Wu Jieping, vice president of the China Association for Science and Technology, as saying sexual knowledge and sexual morality are important for building an advanced socialist ideology and culture. Sex traditionally has been a taboo subject for public discussion in China, but in recent years the official press has urged the establishment of more sex education programmes in schools to encourage sexual morality among young people.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A1032
♥ 106
♦ Q1054
♣ 872

EAST
♠ Q964
♥ K7543
♦ A975
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ KJ85
♥ J
♦ Void
♣ AKQJ10643

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 4 ♣
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

You can't afford to ignore spot cards. Possession of intermediate cards can determine how you tackle a suit. This hand is an excellent example.

In the partnership style, North's double of one heart was "negative," i.e., for takeout in the unbid suits and not for penalties. East's raise to four hearts was well-judged and made life difficult for South. He eventually decided to gamble on the fact that his partner

held a useful ace, and contracted for the small slam in clubs.

West led the ace of hearts and continued the suit. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps in two rounds and now was faced with the problem of how to tackle the spade suit. There was nothing in the bidding to indicate which defender was likely to hold the queen. The fact that East had shown out in clubs made it a bit more likely that he held length in spades, but that alone was not conclusive. Which way would you take the spade finesse and why?

The key factor in declarer's decision was that he possessed the eight of spades. That card meant he could protect against the possibility that East started with four spades headed by the Q-9. Declarer led a spade to the ace and returned the ten of spades. East covered and South won the king. When West failed to follow, it was a simple matter for declarer to get back to dummy with a trump to lead another spade and take the marked finesse for the nine.

Note that if West had started with four spades to the Q-9, there is no way that declarer could have brought in the suit without loss.